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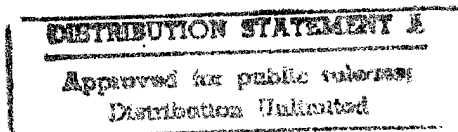
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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

No. 1358



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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

PARTY ADVANCES MEASURES TO INCREASE KIRGHIZ FEED TOTALS

Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 7 Sep 82 p 1

/Article: "Increasing the Feed Procurement Rates"/

/Excerpts/ The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia has discussed the question of the course of feed procurement operations on farms throughout the republic.

In the adopted decree, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia notes that despite the extremely unfavorable weather conditions encountered this year, the republic's party, soviet and agricultural organs are carrying out a definite amount of work in connection with the utilization of all reserves for increasing the production and procurements of feed. A letter addressed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia to all of the republic's communists and workers with regard to intensifying the campaign aimed at overcoming the consequences of the drought and low water conditions was discussed at open party meetings in all of the work collectives. Specific measures have been developed and are being implemented at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses for compensating for the anticipated shortfall in agricultural products and feed. Specialized feed procurement brigades and teams have been organized for this purpose. These units are headed for the most part by specialists and skilled production organizers. On many farms, party-komsomol and deputy groups among the procurement specialists have been created and are in operation for the purpose of exercising control over the course of the feed procurement work. The party organizations are carrying out a great amount of organizational and mass-political work among the workers and they are mobilizing them for the purpose of overcoming the adverse consequences of the low water conditions. The open letter by leading shepherds to all workers on livestock farms concerning the need for having each shepherd brigade obtain 70-100 or more tons of coarse feed using its own resources has received broad support in all areas. Such obligations have been undertaken by more than 12,000 shepherds throughout the republic. Many have already made good on their promises. The komsomol-youth brigades are growing corn on an area of 17,000 hectares and they have resolved to obtain 75 quintals of grain from each such hectare. The initiative displayed by students at schools in Osh Oblast -- each student to produce 20 kilograms of corn grain or 300 kilograms of food roots during the summer -- has received wide support. More than 450,000 students are participating in this patriotic movement.

This task is being solved successfully on those farms where the party organizations, leaders and specialists are displaying great state concern for ensuring that livestock production is supplied with feed. Taking advantage of its additional

reserves, the farms in Talas Oblast procured more than 7,000 tons of ramal feed. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Osh Oblast procured more than 3,000 tons of common reeds in the Chu River Valley. Approximately 120,500 tons of vitamin-grass meal have been produced in the republic, or 21,000 tons more than were produced by this same date last year.

At the same time, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia notes that not all of the party committees, the executive committees of soviets of people's deputies or the primary party organizations have created the required degree of work tension or are skilfully mobilizing the communists and the worker collectives in the interest of carrying out an entire complex of measures aimed at alleviating the consequences of the drought and low water conditions, obtaining maximum feed crop yields from the irrigated lands and finding reserves for augmenting the feed reserves.

In Kalininskiy and Issyk-Atinskiy Rayons, a total of only 2,500-4,500 tons of coarse feed, or 3-5 percent of the plan, was procured during the second half of August. The feed procurement rates for other rayons were also low. As a result, by 1 September 1982 and compared to the same period for last year, coarse and succulent feed for 290,000 tons of feed units, or 22 percent less, had been procured throughout the republic as a whole. The lag was especially great in Issyk-Kul Oblast, where 86,000 tons of feed units were procured, 32 percent less than the figure for last year.

On some farms the harvesting of perennial grasses is being dragged out unjustifiably and this is resulting in a considerable shortfall in the crops and to a deterioration in the quality of the feed. The technology for laying in hay and haylage and for preparing grass meal is being violated in a crude manner in Keminskiy Rayon.

Many farms are suffering shortfalls in their harvesting of feed crops owing to poor utilization of their feed procurement equipment. One fourth of the silage harvesting combines on farms in Manasskiy and Kirovskiy Rayons are still not in operating condition. In Talas Oblast, seven units for the preparation of vitamin-grass meal and 10 units for the preparation of granulated feed are inoperable. On farms in Kalininskiy Rayon, the AVM /forced ventilation machines/ often lie idle owing to poor labor organization.

Despite this situation however, many oblast and rayon associations of Goskomsel'-khoztekhnika are not undertaking the measures required for ensuring continuous operation of all of the feed processing equipment and they are not providing the farms with the necessary assistance.

Concern is not being displayed in all areas for procuring high quality feed. Just as in previous years, considerable quantities of low quality haylage, hay and vitamin-grass meal have been procured in Talas Oblast and in Keminskiy, Chuyskiy, Sokulukskiy and Panfilovskiy Rayons. The quality of almost all of the vitamin-grass meal being produced on farms in Panfilovskiy and Kalininskiy Rayons does not conform to the required standards.

A number of party committees are still not undertaking the measures required for assigning highly skilled personnel to the feed procurement brigades and teams.

Quite often workers are assigned to these posts who lack both specialized knowledge and the ability to work with people.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia recognizes as completely intolerable those situations wherein some party committees and soviet and agricultural organs adopt a conciliatory attitude towards incidents of mismanagement in the procurement of feed and do not demand increased responsibility on the part of the farm leaders and specialists with regard to the complete utilization of the available potential for intensifying the feed procurement rates. Many primary party organizations are avoiding this important work. They have not organized an efficient socialist competition for the feed procurement specialists.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia has obligated the oblast and rayon party committees, the oblast and rayon executive committees, the primary party organizations and the farm leaders and specialists to intensify the procurement rates in every possible way and to ensure a maximum accumulation of all types of feed for the successful carrying out of the livestock wintering program. This represents a specific and practical step taken towards carrying out the decisions handed down during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and also the country's food program. Towards this end, the decision has been made to hold a month's campaign throughout the republic aimed at increasing the accumulation of all types of feed, with the campaign to run from 10 September to 10 October 1982.

In view of this year's unfavorable weather conditions, the efforts of the communists and all of the republic's workers must be directed towards solving a priority task -- during the month's campaign, to augment considerably the supplies of coarse and succulent feeds, such that by no means will there be a reduction in the numbers of public or private livestock and with an increase taking place in the productivity of the animals during the wintering period.

During the month's campaign, the perennial grasses must be given a top dressing and watered in a timely manner and their fourth and subsequent cuttings must be conducted without losses. The harvesting of all grain crop areas and corn for grain and silage must be carried out rapidly and without losses and all of the straw and post-harvest residues on the corn, beet and grain fields must be collected, using for this purpose stubble plow disk harrows, cultivators, harrows and rakes.

The natural haying lands and grass found along roadsides and in the vicinity of collectors and irrigation networks must all be harvested. The work of procuring common reeds and ramal feed for feeding to livestock must be intensified and use must be made of all other sources for augmenting the feed supplies.

Special attention must be given to improving the care of secondary sowings and obtaining maximum yields from these areas.

The sowings of winter forage crops must be expanded -- tritikal, rape, perko and rye, so as to ensure that the livestock will be supplied with green feed during the early spring period.

Jointly with the republic association of Kirgizsel'khozkhimiya, the ammoniation of coarse feeds, especially straw, should be organized on the farms in large volumes.

Daily control must be established over the quality of the feed procured, violations of the technology for preparing the feed must be eliminated in a decisive manner and those who allow the feed to spoil must be held strictly accountable for their actions. Strict accounting for the feed must be organized on all of the farms. Individuals must be assigned responsibility for protecting the feed against field damage, fires and waste.

All feed must be given to the livestock only in a prepared and balanced form. Thus, prior to the commencement of the livestock wintering period, all of the feed lines and feed preparation shops must be made ready for work and their around-the-clock operation ensured.

In its decree, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia has required the oblast party committees, oblast executive committees, municipal party committees and municipal executive committees to increase the support being provided by industrial enterprises, organizations and institutes to the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in accumulating feed and to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by them. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia is directing the attention of the leaders of primary party and professional trade union organizations of those industrial enterprises having subsidiary farms to the need for ensuring that the livestock being maintained on their subsidiary farms are adequately supplied with coarse feed and that no reduction takes place in the number of animals. The recommendation has been made to have the municipal party committees examine, during meetings of the bureaus, the reports by the leaders of the industrial enterprises and institutes on fulfillment by the collectives of the obligations undertaken in connection with feed procurements at kolkhozes and sovkhoses being supported by them and also to ensure the availability of feed for the subsidiary farms of the industrial enterprises.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia has obligated Kirgizsovprof /Kirghiz Trade Union Council/ and the Central Committee of the republic's Komsomol to ensure active participation by the professional trade union and komsomol organizations in the month's campaign aimed at accumulating feed.

7026

CSO: 1824/10

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED FEED, FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN ESTONIA

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 24 Sep 82 p 2

[Article by Ado Koestner, professor, doctor of technical sciences, head of department of food technology at the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute: "We Continue to Develop Feed and Food Production Technology"]

[Text] In his speech to the May plenum of the CPSU Comrade L. I. Brezhnev remarked that the completion dates for the tasks of the food program vary. Of course, the most urgent and acute tasks concern increases in agricultural production. However, the long-term implementation of the national food program is also dependent on improvements in the technology of processing biological raw materials. This problem complex includes improvements of feed and food production technology, and the introduction of dietary research results into the diet, so as to assure for the whole population a sufficient quantity of high quality food that meets the physiological dietary needs. The department of food technology within the chemistry department of the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute [TPI] has for years dealt with all of these problems.

In an era of scientific-technological revolution the main aim in training technological specialists must be the education of engineers with a creative approach. Our students of today will reach their peak productive years in the decades around the turn of the century. In those years they must manage, develop, and implement processes that may be radically different from current ones, and whose details we cannot teach them now in any case. In the training of a creative specialist it is critical that research and teaching be closely integrated. One of the basic principles of the department has been and will be the participation of researchers in instruction, and of students in scientific-technical programs.

As the tasks of the national food program became more concrete, the subjects of several scholarly papers prepared in the department will become more exact and will acquire greater weight. I would first of all stress research in biotechnology as being of immediate importance to the food program.

The first of these is concerned with the use of whey, a byproduct of cheese and cottage cheese production. Whey contains up to 5 percent lactose, which, however, is unsuitable as food on a large scale, and is downright unacceptable to a certain part of the population. By treating whey with galactocidase,

a fixed enzyme, and removing protein and salts 1 ton of whey can be brought to yield a syrup replacing up to 50 kilograms of other sugars, and another 5-10 kilograms of valuable protein concentrate, suitable as a food additive. The total of value of these products amounts to 40-50 rubles. The enzyme-technological aspect of this process was developed by senior researcher Kaie Pappel in her candidate dissertation. Lecturers Eduard Tearo and Endel Uus of the TPI chemical industry processes and machines department developed new types of reactors to solve the technical side of the problem. Currently cooperation is continuing with All-Union research institutes in an effort to bring the process to a comprehensive solution and industrial application. The specific target date for experimental syrup production at Uglich is as early as the end of the current five year period. But why shouldn't this take place also in our republic where the problems of rational whey use are also quite urgent?

Senior researcher Margus Friedenthal defended his candidate dissertation this year. He found a basically new way of conserving rennet enzyme, needed for cheese making. Industrial experiments conducted this year showed that the new, two-stage method conserves a large percent of rennet enzyme, and results in a high quality product.

The food program provides that our republic increase its cheese production 1.9 fold. We can be sure that the new milk curdling technology will contribute markedly to increased cheese production both in our republic as well as all over the Union.

The engineering-enzymology research group of the department is developing a whole array of methods based on enzyme research that will directly or indirectly contribute to solving the tasks of the food program. Starch conversion, fructose production, manufacture of protein hydrolysates, conversion of products of the chemical industry, especially of fumaric acid into biologically highly valuable L-amino acids --these are basically the fields where research is underway.

In cooperation with the All-Union Institute for Bio-Technological Research, and with the help of the experimental plant of the Institute of Chemistry of the EsSSR Academy of Sciences a facility for producing crystalline fructose has been constructed and is currently being tested at the Krasnodar Chemical Plant. Enzymology engineering cannot be considered only the sum of discrete applied research projects. Theoretical research into the kinetics and optimization of the processes is also necessary. The work of lecturer Enn Siimer in the field of general kinetical equations, based on experimental data gathered from research into industrially significant bio-chemical processes, deserves special mention. Within the next few years we can expect to see lecturer E. Siimer's work summarized in a doctoral dissertation.

Enzyme catalysis is an important part of biotechnology, but it does in no way exhaust the possibilities of this branch of applied science. In the improvement of biological raw materials and in the production of goods having great value for the national economy the use of microbiological synthesis is almost unavoidable. In our republic one of the most important objects for

microbiological synthesis is certainly feed protein. Yeast spores and other microorganisms develop in a cheap medium at speeds exceeding those of agricultural products or livestock by 500-1,000 times, and thereby produce a biomass of which half comprises valuable protein, so vital for animal husbandry. The importance of microbiological feed protein synthesis has been stressed in directives dealing with the All-Union and the republic feed programs. Microbiological synthesis has to date not been one of the primary fields of activity for the department. But in recent years, taking into account the needs of the republic's livestock industry, and based primarily on the initiatives of Guid Lookene, candidate of agriculture and director of the Vor sovkhov, we have turned our attention to problems of bioconversion in general, and to production of protein feed from low-value forest products in particular.

In researching the problem we concluded that production of feed protein from brush and waste wood is technically quite feasible. Raw materials for the process would be always available, and protein vital to husbandry could be produced around the year.

The establishment of plants making feed protein, and the implementation of processes for its synthesis in our republic brings to the fore the question of training qualified specialists, including production engineers. Biotechnicians are not currently being trained in our republic, although this could be easily done in the food technology department of TPI, with modifications to instruction based on special programs, and with partial cooperation with institutes of higher learning in the neighboring republics. Along with biotechnology the department is also involved with traditional research concerned with the chemical-technological methods of food processing. The branch laboratory of foodstuffs within the department focuses its attention on food analysis and on possibilities of raising food quality. Processing of protein concentrates derived from milk protein or plants into substances resembling traditional foodstuffs is pursued throughout the world. Our country's achievements in this field will be discussed at an All-Union conference, organized by TPI and the fishing kolkhoz imeni S M Kirov under the direction of the problem council of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the realm of food structuring, food technology also comes into contact with feed production. For example, Ole Tauts, head of the branch food laboratory, is concerned with artificial fish feed. The solution of this problem is quite important for the development of hatcheries, especially for trout raising. The above does not exhaust the list of questions that over the years have been researched by the TPI food technology department, or of problems being solved currently or included in future plans. Several problems have been solved through consultations of industry and agriculture representatives. On many occasions senior theses and projects of future technological engineers have exceeded the limits of instructional purposes and acquired concrete theoretical or practical value. The qualifications and experience of department personnel and the acquired material base represent a firm foundation for future improvements in the training of technological specialists, the concretization of research topics, and the hastening of implementation of research results in the national economy. The solution of all these tasks directly concerned with the food program would be much easier and more effective if the critical lack of space of the department would be alleviated in the near future.

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

MIXED SILAGE ECONOMIZES IN USE OF FORAGE GRAIN IN BELGOROD OBLAST

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 30 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by A. Trubnikov, Belgorod Oblast: "Grain Economy From Use of Silage"]

[Text] The machine operators in Belgorod Oblast have resolved to procure one half million tons of mixed silage -- two times more than last summer. This will make it possible to save approximately 150,000 tons of forage grain. 300,000 tons of succulent feed have already been placed in storage.

One after another, motor vehicles loaded with crushed stalks and ears of corn are approaching a concrete treated trench. In addition to the corn, marrow squash, fodder beets, the aftergrowth of perennial pulse grasses and crushed pea straw and chaff are also being laid away. Chief zootechnician N.A. Stepanenko attentively monitors the accurate ratios for these components and the thorough tamping down of the bulk.

The placing in storage of the mixed silage continues throughout the daylight portion of the day, with the machine operators working in two shifts. There are two experienced drivers for each corn harvesting combine. The same number of drivers are available for the kolkhoz motor vehicles. The supplies of mixed silage are increasing by 1,500 tons daily.

"This year we are intensifying the procurement rates for mixed silage, since we are convinced regarding its profitability" stated the chairman of the Kolkhoz imeni Kuybyshev M.I. Mironenko, "Just as soon as we began providing the sows with succulent feed, an improvement was noted in the preservation of the young stock. Last year we began supplying it to cows and we realized a strong increase in our milk yields. I consider mixed silage to be a multi-purpose feed because it combines the merits of both concentrates and succulent feed."

The Kolkhoz imeni Kuybyshev specializes in the production of pork. Thus large quantities of mixed silage are placed in storage here and at an early date. And on the remaining farms in Ivnyanskiy Rayon -- in smaller amounts.

"This year the situation is changing" stated the secretary of the rayon CPSU committee A.Ya. Zelikov, "The decision has been made to provide not only the hogs but also the dairy herd with nutritional feed -- roughly 1 ton per cow. In all, the machine operators are procuring 22,000 tons of mixed silage -- considerably more than last year."

To lay away 3 tons of mixed silage per sow and 1 ton per cow -- this same goal is being pursued by other rayons in Belgorod Oblast. Compared to last year, the work volume is doubling in size -- the amount of mixed silage is increasing from 254,000 to 500,000 tons. Moreover, the shortened periods for carrying out the ensiling work are being curtailed even more in connection with the late ripening of the forage crops.

Assistance is being provided in the form of efficient organization of the work and large-group utilization of the equipment in two shifts. At the Kolkhoz imeni Zhdanov in Novooskol'skiy Rayon, the ensiling work is being carried out by a harvesting-transport complex. It consists of seven teams: for harvesting and delivering the corn, the aftergrowth of perennial grasses, marrow squash and pumpkins, root crops, placing the bulk in trenches and technical services. The experience of this collective was studied during a special seminar and it is being disseminated on a mass scale. In all, more than 400 specialized complexes and detachments have been created throughout the oblast. Some of them have been converted over to the job contract plus bonus wage system. A competition for procuring succulent feed has been launched on an extensive scale.

The mechanization of loading and unloading operations is promoting growth in labor productivity.

"Special attention is being given to the quality of the feed" commented the chief of the Feed Production Department of the oblast's agricultural administration A.F. Yenyshin, "There must be no less than 0.3 feed units in each kilogram of mixed silage."

Model mixed silage formulas have been developed based upon this requirement. At the Kolkhoz imeni Zhdanov the feed consists of corn with ears (55 percent), alfalfa aftergrowth (20 percent), fodder beets of semi-sweet varieties (15 percent), marrow squash and pumpkins (5 percent) and crushed straw (5 percent). Distinct from previous years, extensive use is being made of chemical additives. On many farms, preservatives are being added to the feeds -- benzoic and acetic acids and for accelerating lactic acid fermentation -- whey. Some farms are adding molasses in order to enrich the silage with sugars.

An increase in the proportion of mixed silage in the hog rations has uncovered an imperfection in the equipping of feed preparation shops at complexes. Developed for a grain type of feeding, the equipment is unable to cope with the preparation of bulky feeds. It became necessary to organize the production of units and parts for the powerful ISK-3 mixers at the industrial enterprises. At the present time, four fifths of the feed preparation shops have already been equipped with such mixers. These units differ from the former assemblies not only in terms of high productivity and reliability but also on the basis of better quality crushing. Up until recently, the farms experienced considerable difficulties in removing silage from the trenches. Today this is being done in many areas using succulent feed loaders, which simultaneously crush the bulk.

The task confronting the Belgorod machine operators is of exceptional importance. One half million tons of mixed silage will make it possible to save 150,000 tons of forage grain during the wintering period. At the present time, each harvesting-transport complex is in operation from early morning until late in the evening.

A high level of equipment productivity has been achieved at the kolkhozes imeni Ol'minskiy in Alekseyevskiy Rayon, imeni Il'ich in Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon, Proletarskiy Oktyabr' in Chernyanskiy Rayon, Rossiya in Shebekinskiy Rayon and at many other farms. Three hundred thousand tons of succulent feed have already been placed in storage. However, other examples can also be cited. The farms in Roven'skiy and Valuyskiy Rayons are falling behind in carrying out this important work. And Time does not stand still.

7026

CSO: 1824/16

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

USE OF DRY PULP PELLETS IN CATTLE RATIONS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 18 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by A. Omel'yanenko, doctor of economic sciences and V. Maksakov, doctor of agricultural sciences at the Scientific Research Institute of Livestock Breeding for the Forest-Steppe and Forest District of the UkSSR, Kharkov: "Instead of Concentrates"]

[Text] Amide-mineral pellets made from dry pulp are making it possible to replace grain concentrates in cattle rations. Why is it that the production of such pellets is not increasing?

There is not a great deal remaining to be said regarding the feed value of beet pulp -- this feed is being employed extensively on kolkhoz and sovkhoz farms. However, another problem is how best to preserve it: indeed, no more than 60 percent is used in fresh form and quite often only one third; the remainder must be placed in storage.

At one time the farms were supplied mainly with sour pulp that had been fermented at plants in large sugarbeet pulp pits. The conditions for ensiling pulp here are far from being the most favorable. A strong water content (fresh pulp contains up to 93 percent water) and the free access of air hinders normal lactic fermentation. As a result, the ensiled pulp obtained is of low quality; up to 30 percent of its dry substance is lost. At the present time, the plants have converted over mainly to the production of squeezed out pulp and the conditions for preserving the feed have deteriorated even more. A considerable portion of the feed is now completely unsuitable for use.

Actually, the fermentation of squeezed out pulp involves greater difficulties: there is less sugar in the pulp, it possesses a greater porosity and thus the air penetrates it to a depth of 50-70 centimeters. The pulp in this layer, during storage in pulp pits, simply decomposes. Up to 40 percent of the nutrients are lost.

Practical experience has prompted a solution. At the Zarya Kommunizma and Progress Kolkhozes in Smelyanskiy Rayon in Cherkassy Oblast and also at sugar plants in Ternopol Oblast, the pulp is thoroughly tamped down when placed in trenches, as should be done during all types of ensiling work. This simple method, which is within the capability of any farm and any sugar plant, improves the feed considerably. Following six months of storage, such feed has lost 23 percent less

nutrients than the loss sustained in non-tamped down pulp. Properly ensiled pulp can be stored for an extended period of time -- right up until the new season.

The preservation of pulp using this method can be carried out in plant pulp pits and also in the storehouses of consumer-farms, where it is delivered by means of motor transport. But only fresh pulp is tamped down. The feed begins to decompose after it has been in the pits for 2-3 days and it loses its structure. As a result, the tractors tend to sink down in it.

Very little mechanical effort is required for tamping down the pulp. It is necessary for a tractor to make only one pass over a meter layer of the feed. And this simple method produces great results. Thus, when young bulls weighing approximately 300 kilograms are fattened on squeezed out and tamped down pulp (it constitutes 48 percent of the nutritional value of the rations), the animals increase in weight at the rate of 913 grams daily. This is 111 grams more than the weight gain for young bulls fattened on non-tamped down pulp.

But it is best to use dried out pulp for feeding to cattle. The drying out process actually produces a concentrated feed, a kilogram of which contains 0.84 feed units. Here the nutrient losses are reduced to a minimum. However, dried out pulp contains very little protein (only 38 grams per kilogram) or phosphorus. Thus, when using this feed, protein additives must be introduced into the ration. A technology and formula for preparing amide-mineral pellets from dried pulp have been developed at the Scientific-Research Institute of Livestock Production for the Forest-Steppe and Forest District of the UkSSR. In addition to the pulp, which constitutes 60-70 percent of the weight of the pellets, the formula also includes grass meal or molasses (20 or 10 percent respectively), urea -- 7 percent, defluorinated phosphate -- 6, Glauber's salt -- 1 and common salt -- 5 percent. A kilogram of such pellets contains 0.65-0.7 feed units and 200-230 grams of protein. Amide-mineral pellets made from pulp can produce fine results as a substitute for concentrated feeds in the rations for cattle undergoing fattening.

The experience of farms in Khmel'nitskiy Oblast has shown that the use of amide-mineral pellets in the fattening of large-horned cattle makes it possible to obtain a daily weight increase of 1 kilogram.

Dry pulp is an excellent feed for hogs. It is flavored with feed molasses (2-3 percent) and granulated. Adult hogs and young stock undergoing fattening are fed 450-500 grams in place of concentrates and young stock during raising -- 300 grams of pellets per head daily.

But the best method for employing dry pulp for all types of animals is that of including it in the formula for mixed feeds. The proportion of dry pulp can be increased to 250-300 grams in a kilogram of mixed feed. And this means that the production of mixed feed can be increased by 25-30 percent for all of the grain resources.

It is apparent that dry pulp is valuable feed. But the sugar industry, even taking into account its limited drying equipment capability, utilizes only 45-50 percent. There are many reasons for this. But in the majority of instances the chief reason is that of order of precedence. The fact of the matter is that dry pulp is a funded product and quite often it is withdrawn from the local feed resources.

And damp pulp is difficult to transport. It cannot be shipped over great distances but rather it must be used on local farms. It is understandable that the economic organs in the various areas are not interested in increasing the production of dry pulp. The time has come for this knot of discrepancies to be untangled.

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CSO: 1824/11

LIVESTOCK

MEASURES TO IMPROVE DAIRY HERD PRODUCTIVITY IN LITHUANIA

Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 21 Sep 82 pp 1-2

/Report on decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania and of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers: "On Measures To Improve the Reproduction of Dairy Livestock Herd and To Increase Its Productivity"/

/Text/ In the decree adopted on this matter the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania and the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers noted that specific measures to increase the production of livestock products and to improve the reproduction and pedigree qualities of large-horned cattle were taken in the republic. Purebred large-horned cattle make up 80 percent and first-grade large-horned cattle, 95 percent of its total stock. Work is done to develop highly productive, new types and lines of large-horned cattle. Republic shows of animal husbandry, which have become traditional, have a positive effect on the development of cattle breeding. All this contributes to the growth of production of livestock products. During the 10th Five-Year Plan milk production on public sector farms increased by 19 percent as compared with the 9th Five-Year Plan.

However, the work on improvement in the selection and reproduction of large-horned cattle done by the Ministry of Agriculture, its scientific research institutions, party, Soviet and economic bodies of rayons and farm managers and specialists is not yet quite efficient.

Owing to the shortcomings in the organization of insemination of cows and heifers and in the implementation of zooveterinary measures to control the barrenness of animals, in the last few years the yield of young stock in the republic has not increased and on farms in Vilnyusskiy, Akmyanskiy, Yurbarkskiy, Raseynskiy and Shakyayskiy Rayons has even decreased.

On many farms the conditions necessary for an intensive raising and proper keeping of calves and pedigree heifers have not been created and their adequate and high-grade feeding has not been ensured, owing to which in 1981 the daily weight gain of calves was only 540 grams and of pedigree heifers older than 6 months, 417 grams, which is much below zootechnical norms.

Less than 2,400 kg of milk were obtained from first heifers on farms in Mazheyskiy, Yurbarkskiy, Raseynskiy, Akmyanskiy, Shilalskiy, Tauragskiy, Telshyayskiy and Kelmesskiy Rayons last year. The productivity of the entire cow herd was also lowered. In 1981 milk yields per cow in the republic averaged 2,913 kg, or 454 kg less than in 1977.

Measures to improve the keeping of cows and to prolong the period of their productive utilization are not carried out satisfactorily. A total of 23 percent of the cows were culled on kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other state farms last year. A considerable part of the cows are culled owing to barrenness, as well as udder diseases, which occur mainly in connection with a violation of machine milking technology. Many rayon production associations of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture formally teach milkmaids and other dairy section workers the rules of mechanical milking and do not provide proper technical servicing for milking units and other equipment of these sections. Nor did the administrations of agriculture of rayon executive committees, as well as zooveterinary services of farms and rayons, pay sufficient attention to these matters. Therefore, a significant number of cows are withdrawn from the herd even during the first years of their utilization.

The insufficient feed base, as well as oversights in herd reproduction, greatly hamper an increase in the productivity and stock of cows, which has increased by only 2 percent on farms in the last 5 years. In Moletskiy, Shirvintskiy, Mazheykskiy, Rokishkskiy and Plungeskiy Rayons, on the average, there are 14 cows per 100 hectares of agricultural land.

There are significant shortcomings in selection-pedigree work. Over a number of years the fat content of the milk sold to the state has not increased, making up only 3.48 percent in 1981. On many farms proper work on the selection of animals is not done and a pedigree nucleus of highly productive cows and replacement heifers has not been established.

The activity of a number of pedigree farms and sections is not always subordinate to their main goal--improvement in the pedigree qualities of livestock. Therefore, the productivity of cows has declined considerably at them. Proper attention is not paid to an expansion of the network of pedigree farms and sections. To this day farms in Akmyanskiy and Shilalskiy Rayons do not have pedigree sections.

Work on improvement in the productivity and pedigree qualities of livestock privately owned by the population is carried out inefficiently in some rayons. Few cows and heifers owned by the population are inseminated in Tauragskiy, Trakayskiy, Shvenchenskiy and Lazdiyskiy Rayons.

The many major shortcomings in herd reproduction and the low productivity of livestock are due primarily to the fact that the feed base does not meet the needs of animal husbandry. The areas and yield of pulse crops and leguminous grass are insufficient and fodder beet harvests are unjustifiably low. Year after year the plans for the procurement of some types of feed, especially hay and fodder root crops, have not been fulfilled and their quality has been low.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania and the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers decreed:

To consider the fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Lithuania on the further development of animal husbandry, especially dairy farming, as one of the basic sectors in the matter of implementation of the food program, the most important task of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry

of Fruit and Vegetable Industry, the Fishing Administration, Alitus and Kapsukas City Committees, rayon committees of the Communist Party of Lithuania, rayon executive committees, their administrations of agriculture and managers, specialists and party organizations of farms. To increase the average annual production of milk to 2.8 or 2.9 million tons during the 11th Five-Year Plan and to 3 or 3.1 million tons during the 12th Five-Year Plan. To raise the average milk yield per cow by no less than 600 to 700 kg by 1990.

To direct the entire organizational and practical activity toward the elimination of the shortcomings noted in this decree. To intensify in all farms and rayons work on improvement in the productive and pedigree qualities of the dairy herd and in its reproduction. To increase the responsibility of the administrations of agriculture of rayon executive committees for this work. To ensure a fundamental improvement in the feeding, keeping and zooveterinary servicing of livestock everywhere. To staff dairy complexes and sections with skilled workers and specialists and to constantly raise their vocational training, interest and responsibility for final results.

To make it incumbent upon the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry, the Fishing Administration, Alitus and Kapsukas City Committees, rayon committees of the Communist Party of Lithuania, rayon executive committees, their administrations of agriculture, kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other state farms to take measures to intensify the fight against the barrenness of cows with a view to increasing the yield of young stock. To ensure the production of no less than 85 calves per 100 cows in 1983-1984, 86, in 1985 and 90, in 1990. To increase the efficiency of insemination of cows and heifers, as well as the responsibility of interrayon pedigree enterprises, their affiliates, interfarm enterprises for the insemination of animals and workers of the state veterinary network and zooveterinary services of farms for the results of this work. To see to it that all cows and heifers in the population's private use are inseminated by the end of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

To ensure an intensive and purposeful raising of young pedigree stock. To attain average daily weight gains of no less than 700 grams in calves up to 6 months old and of no less than 600 grams in pedigree heifers older than 6 months in 1983 and during subsequent years. To obtain milk yields of no less than 3,000 kg from first heifers--3,300 to 3,500 kg at pedigree sections and 3,800 to 4,000 kg on pedigree farms--by 1985. To single out a pedigree nucleus of highly productive cows and replacement heifers on every farm, to improve their feeding and keeping and to ensure their preservation.

To increase the efficiency of work of dairy complexes and to ensure their provision with highly valuable pedigree heifers suitable for keeping under the conditions of industrial production technology.

To implement measures to improve the preservation of cows and to prolong the period of their productive utilization. To increase the responsibility of zooveterinary services for a premature and groundless culling of cows and to establish strict control in this matter. To ensure a prompt implementation of veterinary preventive measures in the herds of the public sector of farms and on the population's subsidiary farms, as well as a proper treatment of animals.

To take measures for an organizational and economic strengthening of pedigree farms and sections. Within a 3-month period through the efforts of the specialists of the Ministry of Agriculture, the scientific research institutes subordinate to it and the administrations of agriculture of rayon executive committees to analyze the state of pedigree stockbreeding and of the provision of animal husbandry with feed and to develop and implement specific measures so that in the next few years every pedigree farm and every pedigree section become leading and exemplary centers of development of cattle breeding, performance of pedigree work and increase in the productivity of the dairy herd. To see to it that by 1985 every rayon has a pedigree farm or a pedigree section of large-horned cattle.

To establish a firm and balanced feed base on all farms so that, on the average, no less than 40 to 45 quintals and, on pedigree farms and at pedigree sections, 50 to 60 quintals of fodder units per cow are annually allocated and fed. To pay special attention to the provision of dairy livestock with hay and fodder root crops. To see to it that 20 quintals of hay and 30 quintals of fodder root crops per cow are procured for the winter period. To ensure a high quality of feed and to solve the protein problem more persistently. To see to it that in the next few years pulse crops in the grain wedge make up no less than 15 percent, leguminous grass in the grass stand of cultivated pastures and meadows, no less than 30 percent and bean crops in the sowings of perennial grass, no less than 50 percent. To increase the productivity of grass and other fodder land, to improve their structure and to create an efficient system of the green conveyer with a view to fully and uninterruptedly providing livestock with green fodder throughout the pasture period. To expand the sowings of fodder cabbage and other crops for feeding cows during late fall.

To accelerate the intrafarm specialization and concentration of dairy farming through the construction of new sections and the reconstruction and expansion of existing ones. To equip calving barns and veterinary dispensaries for calves in cow houses and sections for keeping calves up to 2-month old in barns for young stock. To have on every farm camps for the summer keeping of calves and pedigree heifers.

To increase the responsibility of the state veterinary service and of managers and zooveterinary specialists of farms for a high incidence of epizooty among livestock.

The State Committee for Construction Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Rural Construction, the Litmezhkolkhozstroy Republic Association and planning and scientific research institutes of agriculture with due regard for the latest achievements of science and scientific recommendations, as well as practical experience, before the end of 1982 must revise existing standard plans of barns for dairy livestock and make the appropriate changes in them.

They must ensure the observance and shortening of the periods of construction of the indicated projects, as well as of the mastering of their planned capacities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture must:

Improve the work of mobile classes for raising the skills of dairy section workers established under rayon production associations of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture. In 1982-1983 organize in all rayons cost accounting mobile classes consisting of three or four highly skilled specialists for teaching milkmaids, heads of dairy sections and brigade leaders of these sections mechanized cow milking and technical servicing of milking units, machinery and equipment of animal husbandry sections and for rendering practical assistance in their proper operation. Prepare a milkmaid training program and publish a manual for them in a mass edition.

In schools for improvement in skills under the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture, the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy improve the instruction of zooveterinarians, heads of dairy sections and brigade leaders of these sections in mechanical cow milking and in the operation and technical servicing of milking units, machinery and equipment of animal husbandry sections. Take measures to strengthen the material and technical base of these schools.

The State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education and the Ministry of Agriculture must constantly expand and improve the training of mechanical milking operators and other skilled workers of dairy sections and complexes in rural vocational and technical schools and strengthen their instructional base.

The State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture must more fully meet the needs of farms for spare parts for milking units and refrigerating installations and attain their prompt technical servicing in strict accordance with the approved schedules and technical norms.

The Ministry of Agriculture was instructed:

To systematically organize republic and rayon review competitions for uncovering farms that have attained the best results in the area of herd reproduction and preservation, raising of pedigree heifers and increase in the milk yields of cows.

For the purpose of expanding the production of preparations intended for the prevention of diseases and treatment of animals during the 12th Five-Year Plan to build at the Ukmerge Biofactory a sterile preparation shop and at the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Veterinary Science an experimental shop for an annual production of 450 and 50 tons of veterinary preparations respectively.

The Ministry of Agriculture and its scientific research institutes should improve existing and establish and introduce into production new overall zooveterinary and engineering-economic systems ensuring an efficient production of livestock products and a high productivity and preservation of large-horned cattle. It is necessary to prepare recommendations for the feeding of cows and other groups of large-horned cattle based on a more extensive utilization of succulent and coarse feed and of whole-milk substitutes and on a reduction in the proportion of concentrated feed in the rations of animals. It must intensify work on improvement in the productivity and other valuable qualities of dairy livestock, especially on increase in the fat content of milk, in the suitability of livestock for mechanical milking and in its resistance to mastitis and other diseases.

Alitus and Kapsukas City Committees, rayon committees of the Communist Party of Lithuania, rayon executive committees and their administrations of agriculture were instructed within a 3-month period to carefully analyze on every kolkhoz, sovkhoz and state farm the state of affairs in dairy farming and to develop specific measures for improvement in herd reproduction and raising of pedigree heifers and for increase in the milk yields and prolongation of the periods of productive utilization of cows. Together with party, trade-union and Komsomol organizations and farm managers to intensify the selection, disposition and education of animal husbandry personnel and to be constantly concerned with their vocational growth. To create at sections all the conditions necessary for productive labor and to stimulate them in every possible way to attain the best results in the matter of dairy herd reproduction and increase in livestock productivity.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TURKMEN SSR PLANS FOR MEETING FOOD PROGRAM GOALS

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 15 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by K. Sakhatmuradov, first deputy chairman of Turkmen SSR Gosplan:
"The Food Program of Turkmenistan"]

[Text] The workers of Soviet Turkmenistan, like all workers of our country, unanimously approved of the results of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Food Program which was developed in keeping with the decisions of the 26th Party Congress. Its implementation has become a nationwide cause. All labor collectives of the city and country are striving to successfully fulfill the tasks facing them and to produce as much food for the population as possible.

At the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan on 16 June they analyzed the condition of the republic's agriculture deeply and comprehensively, earmarked measures for improving it, and approved the Food Program of the Turkmen SSR for the period up to 1990.

Turkmenistan has now become a republic with developed, highly mechanized agriculture. During the past three decades alone more than 5 million rubles' worth of capital investments have been used for its development. The make-up of the fleet of machines has been qualitatively updated, which made it possible to significantly raise the level of mechanization of labor-intensive processes. The deliveries of mineral fertilizers increased 2.4-fold. Because of the implementation of the program for water management construction, the area of irrigated land increased 1.7-fold. The achievements of science are being actively introduced into agricultural production.

We raise almost 14 percent of all the cotton produced in the country, about 12 percent of the silkworm cocoons, 20 percent of the Karakul wool, and a large quantity of vegetables and melon crops. There has been a significant increase in the production of grain--from 78,000 tons in 1965 to 278,000 tons in 1980, meat production increased from 49,000 tons to 81,000 tons, milk production--from 155,000 tons to 306,000 tons and egg production--from 80 million to 248 million. During this same period the production of vegetables increased 2.5-fold, fruits--2.4-fold and grapes--1.2-fold.

The increased production of agricultural products has made it possible to raise the level of consumption of food products even though the republic's

population has increased by almost one million as compared to 1965. The average per capita consumption of meat and meat products increased by 33 percent, milk and dairy products--by 54 percent, eggs--1.9-fold, and vegetables--by 54 percent.

The USSR Food Program has set the task: "To provide as quickly as possible for steady supply of all kinds of food products for the population and to essentially improve the structure of nutrition for Soviet people as a result of more valuable products." A powerful stimulus for further formation of the agro-industrial complex of Turkmenistan will be the development of irrigation farming. In order to provide for a normal irrigation of all the land assimilated in the area of the Karakumy Canal imeni V. I. Lenin, under the 11th Five-Year Plan a large amount of work will be done to improve the land. The canal will be extended to the southwestern regions of the republic.

During this and subsequent five-year plans we shall construct the first section of the Tashauz canal for transporting water to the land of Tashauz Oblast from the Tyuya-Muyunskiy water reservoir. The construction of the canal will make it possible to double the planted areas in the oblast by 1990, to move the production of medium fibered strains of cotton from southern regions of the republic to here, and to greatly increase the production of fruits, pumpkins, sesame seeds, alfalfa and animal husbandry products.

A large amount of work will be done to flood the pastures on an area of 8.4 million hectares and reconstruct existing flooding facilities and irrigation systems, and to improve the condition of existing irrigated land.

It is remarkable that almost all of the increase in irrigated land in the Turkmen SSR earmarked for the current Five-Year Plan in an amount of 190,000 hectares will be used for developing the food complex. A large amount of work is now being done to advance all of its branches. We are speaking about making it just as effective as the leading branch--cotton growing. Even though it too has a certain amount of significance in solving the food problem. When raw cotton is processed into cotton fiber, valuable vegetable oil is produced from the seeds. The development of cotton growing in the republic and its processing industry will make it possible by 1985 to increase the production of vegetable oil to 95,000 tons and by 1990--to 105,000 tons.

Grain farming will play a large role in our plans for implementing the Food Program. Under the 11th Five-Year Plan grain production will amount to about 370,000 tons, and under the 12th--475,000-480,000 tons. Such goals will be reached not only through expansion of the planted area, but also as a result of increased productivity. By 1990 the productivity of grain crops should have almost doubled as compared to the 10th Five-Year Plan and we should be obtaining 37 quintals per hectare. In order to increase feed grain resources it is necessary to expand the areas planted in corn and to introduce industrial technology for raising and harvesting this crop. It is also important to provide for stable growth of the production of rice in Tashauz and Chardzhou oblasts and also complete all the construction of rice growing sovkhozes.

The production of vegetable and melon crops is to be increased during the current decade to amounts that satisfy the needs of the republic's population, the needs of the processing industry for raw material and the need for creating significant reserves to be deposited in the unionwide fund. Even under the 11th Five-Year Plan the average annual production of vegetables and melon crops should reach 555,000 tons, and under the 12th--790,000-850,000 tons. Production of early potatoes will also be expanded in order to supply them to the population of the republic during the summer and there should be regular increase in the production of vegetables during the winter and early spring in closed areas--in hothouses or under polyethylene material. Vegetable growers of the republic are now annually fulfilling the plan for the procurements of vegetables and melon crops, but not in the established assortment.

Even under this Five-Year Plan, on the basis of expansion of the plantations and deepening of specialization of the branch, the production of fruits will reach 57,000 tons and under the next Five-Year Plan will almost double. We have great possibilities of developing this branch. The productivity of fruits is still very low. It is necessary to introduce highly productive strains of fruit crops with good taste and commercial qualities and to expand the production of early-ripening products and also late-ripening strains that are suitable for lengthy storage during the winter period.

Grape growing should be developed at rapid rates during the next decade. The areas of vineyards will increase by 50,000 hectares and the average annual production of grapes under the 11th Five-Year Plan will be 100,000-110,000 tons, and under the 12th--270,000 tons. Grape growing should be developed on an industrial basis, for which it will be necessary to deepen specialization, to expand the areas of vineyards on existing farms, to create new, specialized farms and consolidated brigades of the industrial type, to reconstruct existing vineyards, and to introduce new, highly productive strains of table and raisin grapes that have a high sugar content. Vineyards will be planted mainly in Ashkhabad and Krasnovodsk oblasts.

An area that is new for our farmers will be developed--the production of lemons on a large scale.

In 1985 it is intended to produce 100,000 tons of lemons, and under the 12th Five-Year Plan--450,000-500,000 tons. To do this it is planned to construct in 1982-1985 in Ashkhabad and Mary oblasts lemon orchards with an area of 33 hectares, and in 1986-1990--with an area of 40 hectares.

Great potential possibilities for more accelerated development can be found in the branch of animal husbandry in the Turkmen SSR. Animal husbandry workers have been given the task of increasing meat production (in slaughtered weight) to 90,000 tons under the 11th Five-Year Plan and, under the 12th--to 110,000-111,000 tons, milk--to 325,000 tons and 360,000-370,000 tons respectively, and eggs--to 283 million and 357 million, respectively.

It is planned to achieve these goals mainly as a result of intensive factors. Existing reserves for increasing the production of animal husbandry products are still not being utilized everywhere. Moreover, just by increasing the release weight of meat animals to the average republic indicators makes it

possible, without increasing the number of livestock, to produce an additional 20,000 tons of meat. The average milk yield per cow should reach 2,800 kg by 1980, which is 600 kg more than now.

Milking ewes, especially those whose lambs are being slaughtered for wool, will make it possible to increase milk production. During favorable years it is possible to obtain 20,000-25,000 tons of valuable sheep milk.

Poultry raising is also a very effective branch. For example, expenditures on feeds for the production of a quantal of poultry meat are a good deal less than on the production of other kinds of meat. In the republic it is intended to provide for the production of poultry meat (in slaughtered weight) in an amount of 8,000 tons in 1985 and 12,000 tons in 1990. To do this we shall complete the construction of the Ashkhabad broiler factory. Work is being done to increase the production of poultry meat on existing farms, at poultry farms, on poultry sovkhozes for eggs, and on poultry farms of kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Measures have been taken for further development of camel raising, horse raising and rabbit raising.

The successful development of animal husbandry depends entirely on the condition of the feed base. Therefore our republic's Food Program envisions increasing the production of feeds 1.5-1.6-fold during the decade. Feed production should be a specialized branch.

It is intended to increase the areas of feed crops to 284,000 hectares in 1985, a 35-percent increase as compared to 1980, and in 1990 they are to be increased to 309,000 hectares. It will be necessary to develop a system of intensive feed production which guarantees obtaining no less than 100 quintals of feed units per hectare.

It is necessary to balance the feeds in protein and other components, to improve the quality of the feeds, to utilize them efficiently and not to allow losses. Along with increasing the areas planted in alfalfa, silage crops, feed root crops and melon crops, it is necessary to introduce intermediate feed crops on all farms--perko, winter oats and rape for obtaining high yields of green feeds early in the spring.

Feeding animals full-value feed mixtures will become widespread. This makes it possible to increase the milk-yield and the fat content in it while simultaneously reducing expenditures of feed on the production of milk.

It is planned to increase honey production in the republic: under the 11th Five-Year Plan--to 200 tons and the 12th--to 350-370 tons. On the basis of intensification of pawnd fish growing, the production of commercial fish is to increase 4-fold during the decade, reaching 9,300 tons by 1990.

A major role in carrying out the tasks that have been earmarked will be played, of course, by the farms of the public sector--the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. But private subsidiary farms and subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations should make no small contribution to the production of

agricultural products, especially animal husbandry products. In principle it is important that the relations of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses to the rural workers regarding private subsidiary farming will now be placed on a contractual basis. In keeping with this, the republic is organizing the sale to the population of all kinds of young animals, seeds, mineral fertilizers and feeds; and we are arranging the production and shipment of equipment for gardens and orchards. Technical equipment is being sold to the private subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations and land is being allotted to them.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

GOSPLAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES CENTRAL PLANNING, LOCAL PROBLEMS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 2 Sep 82 pp 2-3

/Article by P.A. Paskar', 1st deputy chairman of USSR Gosplan: "A Plan and Initiative"/

/Text/ "During the May Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, attention was once again focused on the inadmissibility of establishing output production volumes for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, determining the sowing areas and the structure of the crops, the number of livestock and other indicators not included in the state plan. What measures serve to guarantee accurate and complete fulfillment of the requirements of the Plenum of the Central Committee in this regard?"

The above question was contained in a number of letters sent in to the newspaper. In response to a request by the Editorial Board, an answer to the question is herein provided by the 1st deputy chairman of USSR Gosplan P.A. Paskar'.

First of all, I feel obligated to say a few words regarding the essence of the problem of combining centralized planning and the economic independence of enterprises. At times the understanding of this problem is oversimplified. In the process, one tends to overlook the principal task and chief characteristic of planning under socialism, particularly the fact that the state plan expresses the interests and requirements of society. It is completely natural that, owing to an entire series of circumstances, the interests of certain branches, enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes may not fully correspond to the requirements of society on the whole. In such instances the planning organs not only must but in fact they are obligated to stand on the side of the state interests. Such an arrangement for planning work serves to protect the socialist economy against crisis type situations, subordinating all economic activity to the goals aimed at improving the well-being of the people.

In work concerned with improving planning and in following the dictates of the party and government, we must achieve a combination of state tasks and plans for the socio-economic development of individual enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes which will be advantageous both to the state and to each group of workers. In such instances, centralized planning and economic initiative in the various areas supplement and mutually strengthen one another.

A great amount of work is being carried out in this regard throughout the country. Since at the present time we are discussing agriculture specifically, mention should be made of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improving Planning and the Economic Stimulation of the production and Procurements of Agricultural Products," adopted in November 1980. In accordance with this decree, the kolkhozes, sovkhoses and agricultural enterprises and associations were to be provided with uniform plans for selling agricultural products to the state, as called for in the state plans for the economic and social development of the USSR and union republics. It also provided for the delivery volumes for logistical resources, the introduction into operations of scientific-technical achievements and also the indicators for capital construction, labor and finances. In the process, the practice of imposing upon the kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other agricultural enterprises and associations tasks not called for in the state plans for the economic and social development of the USSR and union republics was condemned. Such practice paralyzed creative initiative and limited the independence of worker collectives.

In the decree, emphasis was placed upon the fact that the production volume for agricultural products, the size and structure of the sowing areas, the number of livestock, the cropping power of the agricultural crops and productivity of the livestock, the production technology and organization and other indicators of agricultural development are defined in the five-year and annual plans, which are developed directly on the farms.

The utilization of the rights extended by this decree to the kolkhozes and sovkhoses has already produced positive results. In particular, a great amount of work is being carried out in the various areas in connection with improving the structure of the crops. Thus, in their plans for 1983, those RSFSR kolkhozes and sovkhoses which are located in the arid zone or in regions of insufficient moisture, relying upon the recommendations handed down by the scientific-technical institutes and their own experience, intend to expand their clean fallow areas to 13.6 million hectares compared to only 9.5 million hectares in 1980. Moreover, the grain crop area will be decreased somewhat while simultaneously achieving an increase in grain production. A similar situation prevails in the Kazakh SSR. Considerable changes in the use of land resources and in the structure of the areas under crops are called for in the plans for kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Georgian, Moldavian, Kirghiz and Armenian SSR's. In three of these the areas for perennial plantings are being expanded and in Kirghizia the plans call for an expansion of the area used for sugar beet seed plants (non-transplanting method) and alfalfa. In the Baltic republics and the Belorussian SSR, more areas are being set aside for forage crops. Thus the structure of the area under crops is changing for the better -- towards more effective use of the land resources, taking into account the local peculiarities and economic interests of the farms and obtaining high final results.

However, those who presented me with this question are correct: The established system for agricultural planning unfortunately is still not being observed in all areas or in full measure. In a number of areas, just as in the past, various types of additional tasks are being assigned "from above." Thus, based upon a decision handed down by the Executive Committee of the Kuybyshevskiy Rayon Soviet in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast in the Tajik SSR on 9 April 1981, the farms were assigned sowing area cotton tasks with a breakdown by varieties. A 12 October 1981 order handed down by the Lipetsk Oblast Agricultural Administration established the production volumes for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses for individual types of products.

During the past few years, decisions have been adopted in a number of oblasts in the UkSSR having to do with the development of vegetable production, dairy animal husbandry, pig farming and other branches of agriculture during the 1981-1985 period. In the process, the principal parameters for the production of goods and also the dimensions of the sowing areas and the numbers and productivity of the livestock were defined for each farm.

The reasons for the excessive issuing of decrees are well known. One such reason lies in the fact that some leaders of local organs are unable to perform their work in the absence of commands or unleading instructions have been issued on the matter at hand. Today there is a general lack of awareness in many areas that it is no longer possible for just anyone to solve the problems of production development at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Today each farm has an average of 32 specialists, including nine with higher educations. As a rule, these are highly skilled personnel who display a high level of responsibility in performing their tasks. True, among them there are individuals who unfortunately are not trained to perform independent work but rather prefer to work on the basis of instructions received from on high. At times the initiative and enterprise displayed by leaders and specialists do not conform with the interests of the state. Quite often the directive style of management derives directly from these circumstances. However, a sluggish manager does not become more active when led by the hand all of the time. In such instances, other means are required: correct selection, well thought out placement and skilled personnel training.

It is also no secret that quite often the imposing of all types of tasks on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, in addition to those set forth in party and governmental decisions, is brought about by certain factors of an economic nature. Imperfections in the price forming mechanism, great differences in the labor intensiveness involved in the production of various types of agricultural products, the capital-supply level for individual branches and unequal rates for introducing progressive technologies have resulted in a division of the products into profitable and unprofitable categories. Naturally, in such a situation each farm prefers to engage in work that is profitable. The country's requirements for poultry meat, potatoes, flax fibre and mutton are almost identical. Thus the local organs must exercise special control over the production and procurements of individual types of products.

The situation is aggravated by a less than optimum placement for production operations, a distribution which does not take into account the regional and micro-zonal natural-economic conditions. In addition, the difference in the level of management must be borne in mind. We have many examples which illustrate how under identical conditions the same product produces good profit for one farm and losses at another, with the one farm participating willingly in its production and the other farm viewing its production as a "burden."

Since such a situation restrains agricultural development, the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee found it necessary to return once again to this problem, examining and resolving it while taking into account today's situation and the long-range tasks. In the report delivered before the Plenum by L.I. Brezhnev on this question, one statement emerged patently clear: "Excessive administration and petty support for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which quite properly are considered to be the foundation for all agricultural production, must be eliminated

in a decisive manner. No requirements should be imposed upon them that are not called for in the state plan."

What guarantee is there that this arrangement will be carried out in a consistent manner and in all areas? Such a guarantee is embodied in the decisions handed down by the Plenum itself, decisions which are mandatory for all -- from USSR Gosplan down to the rayon organs. It bears mentioning that Gosplan has been entrusted with the responsibility of exercising control over observance of the accepted method of planning and we, as planning organs in the various areas, are obligated to monitor strictly the absolute observance of the party's requirements.

The measures called for in the May Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee for improving the economic mechanism and agricultural control and strengthening the kolkhoz and sovkhoz economies are eliminating those factors of an objective nature that could bring about deviations from the approved principles of planning and control. Thus growth in capital investments in agriculture, increases and more thorough differentiation in the procurement prices for its products, further strengthening of the logistical base of the farms and improvements in the cost accounting relationships will aid in smoothing out the kolkhoz and sovkhoz economies and in eliminating the substantial differences in the profitability of the branches and farms. And this in turn creates conditions which enable the state to obtain the needed products without having to impose the production of a particular type of product on the kolkhozes or sovkhozes and without having to exercise rigid control over the crop structure, the number of livestock and so forth.

For the very first time, the agroindustrial complex is being singled out as an independent object for planning and control. In addition to other advantages, this will make it possible to regulate inter-branch relationships on the APK /agroindustrial complex/ scale -- both legal and economic. Thus the need for resolute decisions disappears here.

Improvements in the mechanism for controlling the agroindustrial complex, as called for in the decisions handed down during the May Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, have as their goal that of further democratizing planning and control. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes, in the form of the soviets of rayon agroindustrial associations, are extended broad rights with regard to the distribution of capital investments and the resources of the centralized funds of the association itself and establishing the accounting prices for the products of inter-farm exchange and for the services of those enterprises responsible for providing services. Owing to this, it is possible to create equal and fair conditions for all farms for the production of food products.

Thus the objective economic causes of unnecessary regulation, which paralyzes the initiative of worker collectives, disappear. Here the task consists of skilfully and completely utilizing the rights and opportunities made available in the decisions of the May Plenum of the party's Central Committee. The manifestation of old methods of excessive administration must obviously be evaluated as inability to direct economic operations under the new economic situation. At the same time, the attention of kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders and specialists must be drawn to the fact that they are required to display greater responsibility for fulfillment of the state plans, greater independence, creative activity and a business-like attitude towards their assigned sector of work.

AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

UKRAINIAN CONFERENCE ON APK PROBLEMS, WINTERING OF CATTLE

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 29 Sep 82 pp 1-3

/Article: "Complete Readiness for the Wintering of Cattle"/

/Text/ The regular conference of the Committee on Agroindustrial Complex Problems of the Presidium of the UkSSR Council of Ministers convened on 27 September in Kiev. The draft food program for the Ukrainian SSR for the period up to 1990, developed by the republic's Gosplan with the participation of the appropriate ministries and departments of the UkSSR, was examined and for the most part approved.

Reports were delivered by ministers M.V. Khorunzhiy, N.A. Korzh, V.A. Lisitsyn and V.I. Cherep and the chairman of Goskomsel'khoztekhnika for the UkSSR V.L. Filonenko on the course of preparations by the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes for the wintering of the cattle.

During the conference, it was mentioned that measures are being implemented throughout the republic aimed at carrying out the tasks called for in the special purpose Agrokompleks program. In particular, the structure of the forage crop areas is being improved and the cropping power for these crops raised. In addition, highly productive varieties having a high protein content are being introduced into operations. Compared to last year, the areas of secondary sowings of forage crops have been expanded by 92,000 hectares, top dressings have been applied and the perennial grasses have been watered. The optimum periods for harvesting the crops are being adhered to in a more strict manner and progressive feed procurement technologies are being introduced into operations and this is bringing about an improvement in the quality of the feed, a reduction in losses and more efficient consumption of the feed. A great amount of work is being carried out on the farms in connection with making more complete use of the waste products being obtained from technical and vegetable-melon crops and the plans call for an increase in the procurements of mixed silage.

Measures are being undertaken aimed at realizing economies in the use of forage grain. Towards this end, increases are taking place in the supplies of feed mixtures obtained from coarse and succulent feeds and straw-concentrate granules and briquettes, all of which have been enriched by mineral additives and vitamins. The interfarm mixed feed plants have been equipped with 520 technological lines having drying and cleaning units with an overall capability of 140,000 tons of grain daily.

A definite amount of work has been carried out in connection with the construction and repair of livestock production facilities, feed preparation shops, feed kitchens and feed storehouses. Of the 22,800 feed preparation installations available, only 21,200 have been prepared for operation.

At the same time, it was mentioned that serious shortcomings are taking place in the organizational work being carried out by the ministries and departments of the republic's agroindustrial complex and their organs in the various areas, in connection with ensuring the timely preparation of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses for the 1982/83 cattle wintering period. On a number of farms use is not being made of the opportunities which are available for ensuring more complete support for the public livestock in the form of feed. As yet, not all of the grasses have been cut down, nor has all of the straw been stacked in Chernigov, Sumy, Voroshilovgrad and other oblasts. The harvesting of some crops is being dragged out. Some oblasts are failing to fulfill their plans for selling grass meal to the state.

In his speech delivered on the occasion of the Order of Lenin being awarded to Azerbaijan, L.I. Brezhnev stated that at the present time importance is being attached to properly protecting each kilogram of grain, vegetables, fruit and potatoes that is grown and delivering all of the products of the fields to the consumers. This applies in equal measure to the feed procurement specialists. The schedules require the maximum mobilization of all resources for the successful completion of all work out on the feed fields. In the near future, work must be completed with regard to completing the stacking of straw and harvesting the grasses and complete use must be made of the corn grain stalks, the sugar beet haulm and the waste products obtained from field crop husbandry and the processing enterprises of the meat, dairy and food industry. Improvements must be achieved in the use of molasses and the production of dry pulp should be increased. This will make it possible to realize a considerable saving in the use of grain forage. The collectives of the mixed feed plants must raise the quality of their products, utilize the capabilities of their enterprises in a more efficient manner, raise the content of non-grain components in the mixed feed and increase the production of special mixed feeds through the use of local resources.

Special emphasis is being placed upon the zealous use of feed. In this regard, the kolkhozes, sovkhoses, rayons and oblasts must display a high level of responsibility in composing the documents for accepting farms for the wintering period. They must reflect a complete picture with regard to the availability of all resources and maintain accurate accounts: where and how much feed should be used each month in order to obtain a particular type of livestock product. All of the components in a ration should be fed to the animals only in a prepared form so as to ensure the greatest return. Prior to assigning the cattle to the wintering regime, an inspection should be carried out and those animals considered to be unproductive or unsuitable for reproduction purposes should be culled out. Optimum maintenance and feeding conditions should be established for promising heifers. Young stock which are ready for delivery should be assigned to an intensive fattening regime. The maximum possible number of farms should be converted over to a closed operational regime.

Those who participated in the conference criticized the construction ministries and departments for the disruptions which took place in the plans for placing in operation a number of livestock production facilities and feed preparation shops.

The farms in Zhitomir Oblast in particular have fallen behind in this regard. The repair of facilities is being carried out in an unsatisfactory manner here. The preparation of cow barns, calf houses and pigsties was started very late in Chudnovskiy, Dzerzhinskiy, Novograd-Volynskiy, Narodichskiy and Radomyshl'skiy Rayons. And for the republic as a whole this work is being carried out slowly. At a number of farms, repair work has yet to be carried out on the feed processing equipment. Considerable guilt in this regard rests with the organizations of Goskomsel'khoztekhnika for the UkSSR: they did not ensure the timely delivery of spare parts, mechanisms and units. During the period remaining, it will be necessary to complete all modernization, construction and repair work on the farms, ensure that the livestock production branch is reliably supplied with electric power, heat and water, provide the farm workers with veterinary preparations, special clothing and special footwear and intensify sanitary supervision.

During the conference, emphasis was placed upon the need for devoting greater attention to the staffing of the farms with specialists and also with personnel skilled in the mass professions. The leaders and specialists must display a great amount of initiative and employ a creative approach in carrying out their obligations. They must bear personal responsibility for the status of affairs in the branch. Production operations must be organized in a manner such that during the wintering period each subunit makes maximum use of its potential for increasing the yield in finished products and ensuring their high quality. Each collective must view its fulfillment of the plans and obligations for this year as a matter of honor, as a guarantee for successful work during the third year of the 11th Five-Year Plan and as an important contribution towards implementing the tasks embodied in the food program.

The members of the committee also approved the structure for the republic's operational group for the organized carrying out of the autumn plowing and fallow plowing work. The group has been assigned control over solving all of the problems associated with the efficient use of the agricultural equipment and the carrying out of the work in a high quality manner.

During the committee conference, speeches were delivered by Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine I.A. Mozgovoy, candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and 1st deputy chairman of the UkSSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Committee for Agroindustrial Complex Problems of the Presidium of the UkSSR Council of Ministers Yu.A. Kolomiyets and 1st deputy chairman of UkSSR Gosplan and deputy chairman of the Committee for Agroindustrial Complex Problems of the Presidium of the UkSSR Council of Ministers V.P. Popov. Executives from the UkSSR Council of Ministers and a number of ministries and departments throughout the republic participated in the work of the committee.

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CSO: 1824/17

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINIAN PRIVATE SECTOR

Kiev EKONOMIKA SOVETSKOY UKRAINY in Russian No 8, Aug 82 pp 48-54

/Article by R. Ivanukh and M. Prozhogin, candidates of economic sciences: "Economic Role and Peculiarities of the Modern Development of the Private Sector"/

/Excerpts/ In solving the task confronting the agricultural workers, with regard to raising the effectiveness of agricultural production, great importance is attached to the use of an all-round approach and to proportionality in the development of all elements in the agricultural sector of the economy. The presence of just one weak link in the production chain for agricultural products lowers the effectiveness of the entire system. In our opinion, such an approach requires a more thorough study of the methodological problems associated with analyzing the modern structure and developing a long-range structure for the agricultural sector of the economy and revealing the role and place of its individual elements in solving the overall task of providing continuous support for the population in the form of food products and industry -- in raw materials and, in particular, the role and place of the private sector in solving this task.

The development of the private sector is not in conflict with the development of the public sector or the collective production of agricultural products, although some economists feel that since it functions according to the laws of simple reproduction, it thus restrains the rates of growth for the agricultural sector of the country's economy on the whole. Such a point of view is in our opinion not entirely sound, although from an objective standpoint we recognize the definite restraining effect generated by the private sector on the rates for increased output throughout the entire agricultural sector of the economy.

For example, during the 1976-1980 period the average annual gross output volume for agriculture in the UkSSR, for all categories of farms, increased by 28.7 percent above the figure for the 1966-1970 period. During this same period, the corresponding indicator for the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes increased by 39.4 percent and for the private sector -- only by 10.5 percent. However, this data by no means testifies to the presence of simple reproduction in the private sector. Statistical data for the past 20 years on the whole reveals a stable trend towards an increase in gross output for this category of farms. Thus we can hardly consider as sufficiently sound those forecasts which call not only for a relative but also an absolute reduction in the foreseeable future in the mass of agricultural products being produced in the private sector.

In determining the means for the probable development of the private sector in the future, emphasis should be placed not so much on the restraining influence it exerts on the rates of growth for gross output in the agricultural sector of the economy, but rather on the fact that the absolute production of goods in the private sector is increasing and this is promoting solutions for the principal tasks confronting agriculture.

The private sector also plays a noticeable role in the economy of the Ukrainian SSR. During the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, it accounted for 28 percent of the republic's gross agricultural output. In some densely populated oblasts and in the forest district and western regions of the UkSSR, its proportion of the gross agricultural output was even higher.

The relatively high productivity of the private sector is conditioned by its economic and social interrelationship with the public sector. A definite and rational division of labor in the sphere of output production exists between the public and private sectors. The public sector specializes in the management of the more mechanized branches of agricultural production -- grain economy, technical crops, leaving for the private sector such labor consuming and as yet only slightly mechanized branches as livestock production, horticulture and others.

Closely linked with the public sector, the private sector is based upon the private work of the members of families of kolkhoz members and sovkhos workers, with the work being performed when they are not committed to carrying out work in the public sector and with no use being made of hired manpower. This condition is dependent upon close coordination of the economic and social interests of those individuals maintaining private plots with the interests of society as a whole. This is borne out by the nature and mechanism for the formation of the production foundation for the private sector, in which the private ownership of definite implements of labor is combined with a tract of land, irrigation equipment and other production means and equipment made available by society on favorable terms or free of charge. This method leads to rapid growth in the functional fixed productive capital of the private sector, the proportion of which in the early 1970's, for the country as a whole, amounted to 10.4 percent of the total amount of fixed productive capital in agriculture¹.

However, it should not be forgotten that the fixed productive capital of the private sector, compared to the kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other state farms, has a less effective structure. Whereas at the end of 1978 the proportion of machines and equipment in the country's public sector of agriculture amounted to 17.2 percent² of the total amount of fixed productive capital, in the private sector it was lower by a factor of 4-4.5 according to our computations.

The private sector is oriented mainly towards consumption and thus its production structure is determined mainly by the requirements of the kolkhoz members and manual and office workers who carry out this production work. Meanwhile the formation of its production structure is influenced by the structure of kolkhoz and sovkhos production. This is manifested in the fact that the private sector specializes mainly in the production of those products which are not being produced in sufficient quantities in the public sector. For example, the public sector is still not providing the population with adequate amounts of potatoes, vegetables,

fruit, berries and animal husbandry products (milk, meat, eggs). And it is in these types of products that the private sector specializes for the most part.

In many oblasts the population of entire rayons specializes in the production and sale of particular types of products. In suburban regions, for example, early potatoes and early vegetables are raised and sold and in remote regions a preference is shown for the fattening of large-horned cattle and hogs for meat purposes, for the development of rabbit breeding and so forth. Owing to the production of many types of agricultural products in the private sector, the kolkhozes, sovkhoses and inter-farm associations and enterprises are able to specialize more intensively in the production of grain, sugar beets, spinning flax and other types of industrial raw materials.

The private sector is an important source for satisfying the food requirements of kolkhoz members, sovkhos workers and other state farms in the agricultural sector of the economy. In the Ukrainian SSR, there are presently 18.7 million persons, or 37 percent of the republic's overall population, residing in the rural areas. The rural population is satisfying the predominant proportion of its requirements for potatoes, fruit, milk, meat and eggs through the private sector.

Sold on the kolkhoz market or through the system of consumer cooperation, the products of the private sector constitute 18 percent of the overall quantity of food products consumed by the families of manual and office workers assigned to non-agricultural branches of public production³. Moreover, it bears mentioning that the proportion of the kolkhoz market, with regard to the overall sales volume for food goods (according to their comparable average), is constantly increasing. Thus, for the country as a whole, it increased from 8.5 to 8.8 percent from 1970 to 1978⁴.

Thus there can be no doubt but that the private sector plays an important economic role. However, as mentioned in a number of party and governmental decrees, some negative trends have recently appeared in the functioning of this element of the agricultural sector. First of all there is the unjustified and premature curtailment of the production of certain types of products in the private sector, particularly animal husbandry products. Thus meat production in the private sector in the UkSSR decreased by 6.4 percent during the 1975-1980 period (see Table)⁵.

Meat Production in the Private Sector in the UkSSR

Years	Total (thousands of tons)	% of Production for All Categories of Farms
1965	950	42.8
1970	1068	37.5
1975	1220	34.0
1980	1141.5	32.9

Compared to 1975 when despite a reduction in the private sector's production of meat in agriculture throughout the republic as a whole its absolute production in this sphere increased, in subsequent years it has decreased both relatively and absolutely.

The communist party views an increase in meat production and in other livestock products as a priority task of the agricultural workers. In the decree handed down during the November (1978) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasis is placed upon the fact that a solution for the problem of supplying the residents of cities and villages continuously with meat and other food products must be achieved by intensifying the production of goods in all sectors of our agriculture.

In speaking before the December (1979) Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, V.V. Shcherbitskiy observed that in order to increase the production of meat and other agricultural products importance must be attached to utilizing the opportunities offered by the subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises and other organizations and also the private plots of the population. In the process, he emphasized that a number of oblasts throughout the republic are still not devoting sufficient attention to this problem.

The principal difficulty being encountered in the private sector with regard to the development of livestock production has to do with insufficient quantities of feed. In Chernovtsy Oblast, for example, each farmyard is being supplied with only 20 kilograms of milling waste products per quarter. It is not easy for the population to acquire vitamin, protein additives⁶.

The development of measures aimed at further improving production at kolkhozes and sovkhoses must not arouse opposition on the part of the public interests of collective production against the private sector interests. In actual practice, despite decisions handed down by the state organs, the implementation of such measures has often produced such opposing interests. For example, the introduction in 1965 of raised procurement prices for agricultural products and also 50 percent bonuses for above-plan product sales have brought about considerable improvements in livestock production in the public sector and intensified the desire of farm leaders to increase the marketability of their products. However, under conditions involving slow development of the feed base, this has led to a restriction being placed upon the forage funds being made available to satisfy the needs of the private sector, to the sale of feed at retail prices and, it follows, to an infringement of the interests of a particular farm. Whereas during the 1966-1969 period meat production in dressed weight in the public sector of agriculture in the UkSSR increased by 15.8 percent, in the private sector it decreased by 12.1 percent. Thus, overall meat production for the 4 years increased by only 4 percent, that is, it grew at a rate that was 4 times less than that for the preceeding period in the 1960's⁷.

The situation improved considerably with the adoption of the new kolkhoz regulations, which consistently links the interests of the collective and private sectors. During the following period (1969-1972), meat production in the public sector of agriculture increased by 18.2 percent, in the private sector -- by 19.7 percent and in the agricultural sector of the national economy for the UkSSR on the whole -- by 18.8 percent⁹.

Hence, in connection with any problem associated with further improving agricultural production, practical solutions must be arrived at which will also link together closely the interests of both the collective and private sectors. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of persons maintaining private plots at the present time are performing their principal labor in the public sector and thus they are accustomed to combining their private interests with the public economic interests.

There can be no doubt but that a determination of the methods to be employed in the further functioning of the private sector must be based upon consideration of this community of interests and upon recognition of the economic unity of the private and public sectors in the agricultural sector of the country's economy. Hence a need exists for employing a planned approach for solving the vital problems of the private sector. This is clearly indicated in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers dated 14 September 1977 entitled "The Private Plots of Kolkhoz Members, Manual and Office Workers and Other Citizens and Collective Horticulture and Gardening." In this decree it is stated that the sovkhozes are obligated and it is recommended that the kolkhozes examine the measures outlined in their production-financial plans for ensuring that those persons maintaining private plots are supplied with coarse and succulent feed for their livestock and poultry. Tracts of land must be made available in a planned manner for the grazing of the livestock and for haying purposes and the plowing of the private plots must be carried out.

Since the need for a planned approach for solving the problem of specific measures aimed at further developing the private sector derives from the task for all-round improvements in agricultural production, we are of the opinion that it must be carried out in long-term programs for regulating the economic and social processes in the rural areas and also in complex plans for the socio-economic development of the agricultural production collectives.

The goal of these programs and plans consists of mobilizing all of the economic and social reserves for raising production efficiency, while taking into account the peculiarities of each kolkhoz, sovkhoz, village and rural administrative rayon. In particular, "all-round programs for socio-economic measures aimed at raising the efficiency of use of labor resources," which during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan were developed and implemented for the very first time in the republic in Khmel'nitskiy, Nikolayev and Volyn Oblasts, were directed towards achieving this goal. However, in these measures and in the methodological recommendations for developing them, similar to the methodological recommendations for composing the plans for the economic and social development of kolkhozes, attention was not focused on the private sector. In this regard, work should be carried out aimed at improving the appropriate methodological recommendations. This requires first of all a summary of the experience available in the republic for introducing elements for the planned management of the private sector, which is promoting stronger coordination of the mutual social and economic interests of the private and public sectors.

For example, in many villages in Volnovakhiyskiy Rayon in Donetsk Oblast, based upon the initiative displayed by worker committees, permanently active methodological councils have been created for furnishing assistance to the population in matters concerned with the maintenance of private plots. Personal accounts have been established for each farmyard and plot in which information is provided on the size of the private plot, the crops being raised on it and the soil tilling methods. This has made it possible to see the true picture with regard to land utilization in this sphere. At sessions of the village soviets of people's deputies, discussions are held on a regular basis on the efficient utilization of land in the private sector. The village soviets receive requests for seed and planting stock and also for the use of transport vehicles. All of this has made it possible to increase noticeably the marketability of the private plots. Thus, for example,

over the past few years the residents of the villages of Andreyevka, Lyubovka, Dolya and Chervonyy in Volnovakhiyskiy Rayon have annually supplied the procurement points with an average of 420-430 quintals of meat, 13-15 tons of potatoes, 10 tons of milk, 30,000 eggs, 40-43 tons of garlic and onions and many other products.

Useful experience in contractual relationships has been accumulated in L'vov and Volyn Oblasts between kolkhozes and sovkhozes on the one hand and kolkhoz members, sovkhoz workers and pensioners on the other, in the fattening of young cattle and poultry stock. In many villages in these oblasts, the pensioners, by agreement with the kolkhoz administration, are raising and supplying their fellow countrymen, on the basis of work orders, with up to 300 young pigs annually, while the kolkhozes are supplying them with adequate quantities of diverse types of feed.

It has been estimated that a kolkhoz member or sovkhoz worker, in the maintenance of his private plot, spends no less than one third of the amount of time he spends working in the public sector. The solution for the situation which has developed lies in raising the level of mechanization for the principal work carried out on a private plot, based upon an increase in the production of small-scale tractors and self-propelled undercarriages having various sets of implements. Some branches in the public sector, particularly vegetable raising and viniculture, are also experiencing a requirement for this equipment. When such equipment is available at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, a type of rental service can be organized or other forms for its use on private plots on a cost accounting basis. The use of this equipment can be especially effective if appropriate land management work is carried out for the purpose of concentrating the private plots in individual tracts.

An expansion must take place in the assortment and an increase is required in the production of equipment for so-called "light mechanization" and various implements through Minmestprom /Ministry of Local Industry/, with the rental of such equipment being organized at domestic services enterprises located in the rural areas.

Discussions have been underway over a period of many years concerning the need for creating a complex of instruments and machines equipped with power units and intended for the tilling of soil, the cultivation of orchard and garden crops, the preparation of feed and tending the livestock. For example, the rural residents are patiently awaiting the arrival of headpieces for their electric generators for churning butter, shredders and cutters for fruit and vegetables and various attachments for the straw cutters for crushing the root crops for the livestock and poultry. In this regard, the opinion has been expressed that the time has come for the State Committee for Science and Engineering of the USSR Council of Ministers to play a more active role as an organizer and coordinator of such works and to enlist the aid of skilled designers and the creators of new models of mechanisms and instruments⁹.

A review must be undertaken of the existing approach for developing tools of labor for the private sector, since production on the private plots at the present time is oriented mainly towards the use of manual labor. The leaders of enterprises and departments must not overlook the fact that, as borne out by special studies, of the overall total of labor expenditures in the private sector 84 percent is used for pensioners and women who combine work in public production with work on their private plots and with caring for children¹⁰.

The private sector requires substantial assistance in organizing the marketing of its products along several lines. As is known, the retail sale of private sector products on the kolkhoz market is carried out in small batches and this leads to considerable expenditures of time and great transport expenditures. This form of sales for the products of the private sector does not stimulate its intensification. These products are sold in larger quantities through a system of various procurement organizations, but they perform their own functions for the most part in a spasmodic manner. Moreover, in many rayons these organizations lack adequate storehouse facilities and this narrows to a considerable degree the possibilities for procuring the products of the private sector.

The cooperation specialists must display constant concern for improving the system of procurements and for developing effective methods for the economic stimulation of the sale of surplus products, such that maximum use will be made of the reserves available in the private sector in connection with the formation of the state food resources.

In the report entitled "The Food Program of the USSR for the Period Up To 1990 and Measures for Implementing It," delivered during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, L.I. Brezhnev stated directly that in solving the food problem a great amount of work must be performed by Tsentrosoyuz /USSR Central Union of Consumers' Societies/, which "must direct attention to the private plots and promote their normal activity." A positive result will ensue, for example, from the introduction of a contractual system of procurements under which consumer cooperation will be able to forecast more accurately the procurement volumes and schedules, plan the work of the procurement network and prepare logistical support for those enterprises engaged in the storing, processing and sale of agricultural products. A peculiarity of the contractual system in many oblasts is the participation in it of three parties: the kolkhoz administration or sovkhoz board of directors, the supplier and the procurement organization. The resident-supplier is responsible for producing and selling a definite quantity of the product, the kolkhoz or sovkhoz is obligated to provide the supplier with the required feed and the procurement organizations must purchase the products at the agreed upon or state prices. This promotes a strengthening of the interrelationships between the public and private sectors.

In many oblasts and rayons the procurement organizations have carried out a great amount of work aimed at increasing the procurements of agricultural products and they have accumulated a great amount of positive operational experience in working with individual suppliers.

The experience accumulated in organizing procurements of agricultural products among the population by consumer cooperation workers in Zhitomir and Vinnitsa Oblasts is deserving of dissemination on an extensive scale. Here, at each populated point, the rural cooperators have their own procurement specialists -- one for each 250-300 farmsteads. Each day they make their rounds, purchasing various products and carrying out a counter trade in industrial goods. The products procured are transported by motor vehicles of consumer cooperation over circular routes -- one vehicle services several villages. Following the example of the cooperation specialists, dairy combines have commenced work in the rural areas and this has made it possible to increase their output and improve the supply of goods for the city and settlement populations.

Experience has convincingly proven that in those areas where the local party and soviet organs are providing the population with assistance in maintaining their private plots, the production of goods and the sale of surplus products to the state and on the kolkhoz market are proceeding successfully. For example, in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast it is estimated that when the proper assistance is provided to the population in the form of feed, seed and other materials, it is possible to fatten additionally throughout the oblast 56,000 head of large-horned cattle, 106,000 head of hogs, 2.2 million head of poultry and many rabbits. The oblast executive committee has conducted group meetings and seminars during which discussions were held on questions concerned with the most effective use of the potential offered by private plots and the assistance to be provided for them by local party organs and the executive committees of village and settlement soviets. Considerable quantities of young stock and feed were made available.

Thus the development of the private sector is taking place under the direct influence of the country's public sector, of which it is a component part. This influence is exerted both directly and through kolkhoz-sovkhoz production. The subordination of the private sector to public production conditions its socialist nature and makes it possible to regulate its development.

FOOTNOTES

1. Computed on the basis of data: "Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1970 godu" /National Economy of the USSR for 1970/, Moscow, 1971, p 298; Suslov, I.F. "Ekonomicheskiye interesy i sotsial'noye razvitiye kolkhoznogo krest'yanstva" /Economic Interests and Social Development of the Kolkhoz Peasantry/, Moscow, Mysl', 1973, p 159.
2. See: "Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1978 godu" /National Economy of the USSR for 1978/, Moscow, Statistika, 1979, p 206.
3. See: POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE /Political Self-education/, No 4, 1979 p 96.
4. See: "Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1978 godu," p 433.
5. According to data in statistical collections: The national economy of the Ukrainian SSR -- for the corresponding years.
6. See: PRAVDA, 16 May 1980.
7. See: "Sel'skoye khozyaystvo SSSR. Statisticheskiy sbornik" /USSR Agriculture. Statistical Collection/. Moscow, Statistika, 1971, pp 292-295.
8. See: National Economy of the Ukrainian SSR for 1972. Kiev, Gospolitizdat Ukrainy, 1973, p 275; National Economy of the Ukrainian SSR for 1969. Kiev, Statistika, 1970, p 259.
9. See: PRAVDA, 26 May 1978.
10. See: POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE, No 4, 1979, p 96.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

ESTONIAN SCIENTIST DISCUSSES ECONOMIC FUNCTION OF RAPO.

Tallinn KOMMUNIST ESTONII in Russian No 7, Jul 82 pp 33-37

/Article by M. Tamm, laboratory chief of the Estonian Scientific Research Institute of Farming and Land Reclamation, candidate of economic sciences: "A Variant of Improvement of Administration." See also articles in KOMMUNIST ESTONII by M. Bronshteyn (1981, No 7), Ya. Tepanda (1981, No 12) Ya. Allmere (1982, No 1) I. Rayg (1982, No 2) and Kh. Repp (1982, No 4)

/Text At the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee they emphasized the need for improving the administration of agriculture, strengthening the rayon administrative level, granting the kolkhozes and sovkhoses the final word in production questions, and closely coordinating the activity of all units of the agro-industrial complex with the final results of production. The implementation of the Food Program that was approved by the Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee presupposes certain changes in the organization of the administration of its implementation.

Agriculture, of course, is called upon to play the main role in implementing the Food Program, but the idea of developing this comprehensive special-purpose program consists in the improvement of the interaction of ministries and departments that participate in the production of food products. The production of food products depends to an ever greater degree on the development of the industry, primarily on industry that produces agricultural means of production.

The food complex also includes such branches as fishing and forestry, and the chemical and microbiological industry. Therefore it is not difficult to guess that improvement of administration of the agro-industrial (food) complex, because of its immense scope and complex structure, is not a simple matter.

Estonia has already accumulated valuable experience in improving the administration of the agro-industrial complex of the republic and reorganizing it, primarily because of the almost seven years of activity of the Vil'yandiskiy Rayon agricultural (now agro-industrial) association. The so-called Vil'yandiskiy experiment has rightfully earned a positive evaluation and has attracted constant attention to itself. Now all of the rayons have created agro-industrial associations, but they must make certain changes on the republic level in order to manage them. Below we consider one of the possible directions for further improvement of agricultural administration within the framework of the agro-industrial complex.

The changes to which the appearance of the experimental agricultural association led can be reduced briefly to the creation, in the first place, of collective administrative agencies, and, in the second place, centralized monetary funds.

The centralized funds of the association make it possible to use the additional income that is received as a result of more favorable conditions for management (high fertility of the soil and a larger supply of production capital, labor force and resources that are in short supply such as fertilizers and mixed feeds) for construction in the interests of the entire association of interfarm facilities, in the form of assistance to backward farms that are operating under the worst production conditions. During the five years (1976-1980) of operation of the Vil'yandiskiy Rayon agricultural association, more than 0.6 million rubles were allotted for direct assistance to farms with low profitability. The assistance was efficient and it was undertaken in order to satisfy the concrete needs which are most apparent at precisely the rayon level.

A few words about the hopes of the farm managers. At the constituent assembly of the Vil'yandiskiy agricultural association, the only one of the farm managers who spoke then who was an experienced kolkhoz chairman, Martin Linnas, made a suggestion to arrange capital construction in the association in such a way that any building or, say, farm complex is released to the farm in final form. In this wish he expressed the hope that under the conditions of the association the farms would be relieved of various functions for production service and would have the possibility of concentrating all their forces and attention on basic production. In fact everything was limited to centralization of planning of capital construction and supervision of it. In recent years construction by the internal method, which the farms themselves manage and for which they obtain materials, is even expanding.

The management of the association has engaged energetically in concentration and specialization of production and also interfarm cooperation in the sphere of service for production. The first section of the interfarm fattening base for large horned cattle has gone into operation on the Karksi kolkhoz, an interfarm facility for reproduction of hogs is being constructed, and the interfarm storehouse for mineral fertilizers was constructed in a short period of time on the Ab'ya sovkhov. The construction of production buildings that are necessary for seed growing and mixed feed shops is not proceeding so smoothly. Good intentions on the part of managers of the association alone are not enough to begin these construction projects or others that are similar to them. The material and technical capabilities are also necessary.

When the association was created it was suggested that by local redistribution of income in the form of centralized funds it would be possible to equalize the conditions for management. As was already said, this possibility is being utilized, particularly for equalizing wages. Yet the coefficients of the conditions for management (deductions into the funds are differentiated according to them) show that during five years these conditions have not been equalized. The differences in wages, on the contrary, have increased. A comparison with the average rayon indicators shows that certain kolkhozes and sovkozes that have the best conditions for operation are advancing more rapidly than the rate at which the difference between the farms with the worst conditions and

the average rayon level is decreasing. Thus one can assert that although the differences in the situations of the farms have not become worse, it is still too early to speak about equalization of levels.

A positive evaluation should be given to the activity of the association's management in the area of the social development of the rayon. But since the ispolkom of the rayon soviet has the corresponding divisions, it would be expedient to leave the management of the development of the social infrastructure in the hands of the local soviet.

The former rayon agricultural administration, which has been changed into the administrative staff of the association, performs basically its previous functions. Since the association is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, its role in the management of the enterprises and organizations of other ministries and departments has not increased essentially.

Participants in the preparations for the experiment were reproached repeatedly because the agro-industrial association did not have an internal economic mechanism that coordinated the interests of all enterprises and organizations with the activity of the association as an economic organization and with the final results of production. What has been said pertains primarily to enterprises that serve agriculture and process its products. But several years of searching did not lead to the creation of such a mechanism and, moreover, no one has yet been able to submit an idea that has been realized in practice. The association's participation in centralized funds from above-planned profit shows that joint financial funds act as an integrating factor, but this presupposes a change in the overall policy for the distribution of profit to the detriment of the state budgets.

In principle, all managers of enterprises that are members of the association are well aware of the need to cooperate. But every enterprise is bound by its own planning assignments and the limits of resources allotted under the departmental policy for their fulfillment. And the departmental plan does not regulate questions of interaction. The activity of the enterprises is evaluated not in terms of the final results of production, but in terms of intermediate indicators which should include the indicators used for evaluating the work of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, but are not directly related to the final output of the complex. Consequently, as before, it turns out that there are still departmental attitudes and intradepartmental distribution of planning assignments and resources, and the creation of rayon agro-industrial associations still does not motivate its members to achieve good final results of production. Yet without unity of interests, the rayon agro-industrial association cannot act as a total economic organization which is actually a labor-controlling conglomerate of enterprises and associations under various jurisdictions. The fact that the association is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture does not make it possible in any way to extend the effect of its functions for the formation of planning assignments and material and technical supply to enterprises that are under the jurisdiction of other ministries.

Improvement of the administration of the agro-industrial complex is directed toward closer integration of all of its units. But economic integration can

be successfully controlled only with the help of certain key points, economic ties that are formed and function in a given process. These ties are the relations between the exchange and movement of material values among economic organizations. Enterprises which have more of these ties and which, consequently, can dictate, as it were, their own conditions of the game, are always in a preferred position in the system of economic ties.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes and rayon agro-industrial associations maintain economic ties with many other enterprises and organizations. It is precisely the latter that have, in certain spheres, a larger number of economic ties and, consequently, better possibilities of introducing their own rules of the game. Thus the farm must refrain from constructing any complex facility in favor of the builder, make concessions in questions of the quality of construction work, travel to the other end of the republic for spare parts, and agree to all of the conditions of the recipient when selling livestock, milk and other products.

At the basis of all proposals and experiments for improving the administration of the agro-industrial complex lies the idea that the central unit in it is agricultural, which produces food, raw material and which intersects intra-complex economic ties. On the whole it is considered most important to improve economic relations between agriculture and service and processing enterprises in favor of the former.

In this connection it should be noted in the first place, that agricultural products are still not the final product. In the second place, from the standpoint of improving the administration of agriculture it is important, as was already noted, to have a greater and greater dependency between its development and the quantity, quality and comprehensiveness of resources that are produced by industry. Agricultural management agencies distribute resources by means of funds and limits, and real material values move along channels that are controlled by other departments, for example, Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika, the Estkolkhozstroy association, the Ministry of Procurement and so forth. Such parallelism and sometimes divergence of interests gives rise to excessive paperwork, numerous conferences and coordination sessions for which an inflated administrative staff is required. Actually, there are many questions of distributing resources that can be decided without taking into account the opinion of agricultural agencies or other departments, based on their internal interests, at whose basis lie not products, but intermediate calculating indicators.

Management agricultural agencies are not always able to provide for comprehensiveness of resources or their balance with production plans even for specialized funds not to mention ordinary kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This matter is still basically the concern of the farm management, which is responsible for the comprehensiveness of resources through plans and directions.

Thus the role of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the development of the production base and the social infrastructure is becoming the leading one, and the higher administrative agencies are not succeeding in doing much to improve the conditions of the backward farms. The work of these agencies is beginning to be dominated by operational management, the gathering of information, detailed plans and control over their fulfillment. From the standpoint of administration of production, the workers themselves do not rate such activity very highly.

Agencies for agricultural administration, including the Ministry of Agriculture of the union republics along with production administration, also perform a whole number of functions of state supervision, particularly over land construction and protection of the land, veterenary services, plant protection services and the utilization of technical equipment. The majority of them are involved in the protection of natural resources. But control over one's own work leads to a situation where it is not always on the proper level and does not always take common interests into account.

And in conclusion. Agriculutre has become difficult to control. Specialists of the rayon level and farms and also scientific institutions are being drawn in to the ever-increasing turnover of documents. At all levels there are more and more managers, and on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes there are now more workers involved in administration, for example, than there are milkmaids or tractor operators. From the Ministry of Agriculture, where two decades ago about 180 people worked, during these years they have separated several new ministries and departments (naturally, with an increase in the number of workers). In them (with the exception of the Ministry of Forestry and Protection of Nature) and several others--amounting to a total of 10-13 ministries and departments--we deal with the agro-industrial complex of the republic, but, through the infrastructure and functions of state administration, the majority of other ministires and departments are also related to this complex.

The formation of a commission of the agro-industrial complex of the Estonian SSR will undoubtedly contribute to improving the interactions of the ministries and departments and solving the problems of further specialization and concentration of production, and also other long-range and immediate tasks. But then one still has departmental planning assignments, distribution of resources, criteria for the evaluation of the results of work, and consequently, divergences in interests both on the republic and on the rayon level.

To solve the problem by transforming rayon agro-industrial associations into some kind of autonomous systems and to set planning assignments for them in the form of a final output, that is, various meat and dairy products, fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, potatoes, alcohol, bread products and so forth, is inexpedient in the present stage since this would complicate the planning and supply for production and consumers, and would erode branch administration. Still, of course, one should clarify the role of the rayon agro-industrial association in the development of processing production and storage and also its position in the administration of the given sphere. But this would not solve the problem of the jurisdiction of rayon agro-industrial associations since several ministries engage in the processing of agricultural products. Although the conditions of the Estonian SSR would allow (following the example of European socialist countries) placing the agro-industrial complex under the jurisdiction of a combined ministry, it is necessary to take into account the fact that to place approximately one-third of the national economy under one union ministry is unrealistic.

In addition to the formation of a commission of the agro-industrial complex, certain administrative functions should be redistributed, and the republic administrative agencies should be partially reorganized.

In order to reduce departmental barriers one should, in the first place, proceed from the fact that actually the development of agricultural production is controlled by means of the distribution of resources of an industrial nature and, second, one should combine the material and technical support of agriculture and the administration of the production of agricultural products, correspondingly expanding the functions of Goskomsel'khoztekhnika. At the same time it would become possible to delimit the functions of the administration of agricultural production and state supervision and thus to create an association of the corresponding subdivisions of the present Ministry of Agriculture, State Committee for Land Reclamation and Water Management, the ministry of the timber industry and protection of nature, and the Committee for the Utilization of Land, Water and Other Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment.

The proposed combination of the management of agriculture and material and technical supply means that, although in the relations among kolkhozes, sovkhoses and service enterprises all possible kinds of abstract calculations data will still be applied, for example, each ruble spent on land reclamation or on each conventional hectare, the department as a system will be oriented on the whole toward the creation of agriculturereal products, that is, real material values. Thus one can in fact realize the principle recommended by the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee of evaluating the activity of service organizations in terms of the result of agricultural production, in terms of the output of products.

The organization of all material and technical supply as much as possible with the mediation of a single department and joining it directly to agricultural enterprises within the framework of rayon agro-industrial associations would make it possible to easily form part of the internal economic mechanism of the association, which, as a result of this, would be intradepartmental. In the first place the restructuring would apply to the redistribution of incomes among agricultural and service enterprises and the service for production which at the present time frequently involves differences of opinion.

The proposed reorganization includes possibilities of reducing the administrative staff both at the republic and at the rayon level, and also the quantity of paperwork and directives to the farms. The transformation is also possible as an experiment, in stages, while retaining the ministries and departments on which the fate of agriculture actually depends.

The unification of agricultural administration and its material and technical supply would provide better for comprehensiveness of resources and, consequently, would lead to strengthening of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses and increased production of agricultural products which, in this stage of development, is the most important task of the agro-industrial complex.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

INTERFARM COORDINATION, RAPO IMPLEMENTATION DISCUSSED

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 37, Sep 82 p 7

/Report on business meeting by F. Bogomolov and Ya. Glezer: "Problems Worrying Economists"/

/Text/ The Vileyka City Party Committee in Minsk Oblast and the editorial board of EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA organized a business meeting of managers and specialists of farms, organizations and enterprises servicing kolkhoz-sovkhoz production, which was devoted to a joint search for reserves. Notes by our correspondents from this business meeting are published below.

"A network of enterprises and organizations engaged in the supply of material resources for farms, repair of equipment, fertilizer application and reclamation construction has been formed in the last few years," V. Bulgak, secretary of the Vileyka City Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia said, opening the meeting. "Of course, such specialization contributed to the development of agricultural production."

At the same time, however, the relations of kolkhozes and sovkhozes with the above-mentioned organizations became complicated, departmental interests intensified and the direction of all the links of the agroindustrial complex toward end results in farming and animal husbandry was lost.

Departmental "Fences"

In the opinion of V. Gameza, chief of the planning and financial division of the administration of agriculture of the city executive committee, in the course of specialization rural areas were partitioned by departmental "fences." This departmentalism left its imprint on the nature of the relations of farms with the organizations and enterprises servicing them. Often intermediary subdivisions began to play a decisive role. The following example was cited.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes dispatched milk to a milk plant. Its laboratory determined the quality of the product received. Despite the implementation of all zootechnical and sanitary measures, farms did not succeed in significantly increasing the fat content and grade of milk. It turned out that laboratory workers seriously sinned against objective evaluations of quality. It was decided to organize parallel control. Well, what of that? The quality indicators of milk sold to the state improved.

Why do such situations arise? Because the milk plant is not financially bound by common interests with kolkhozes and sovkhoses. This forces it to seek ways for its own advantage.

Here is another example, which V. Gorelik, manager of the rayon department of the Agricultural Equipment Association, cited in his speech. He said that there was no need to prove that major repairs of agricultural machines cost more than current repairs. If together with farms we had been interested in reducing production costs, we would have more scrupulously evaluated the need for specific repairs. Now the Oblast Agricultural Equipment Association plans a certain number of major repairs of agricultural machines for us. If we do not fulfill this plan, sanctions will follow. But to us in the localities it is more obvious what repairs certain equipment needs.

Under the present conditions of mutual relations it often happens that the workers on whom the efficiency of production technology and final production results depend act independently. For example, the wages of a fitter of the Agricultural Equipment Association for the repair and servicing of refrigerating installations on farms in no way depend on the quality of the milk sold by kolkhozes and sovkhoses to the state. Naturally, the question arises: What is his interest in labor?

In his speech S. Lavrinovich, deputy chairman of the city executive committee, also drew attention to the imperfection of the relations formed among partners, who, essentially, are engaged in the same undertaking. For example, the mixed feed plant should deliver mixed feed in a certain quantity and assortment for rayon farms. As a rule, however, it produces feed more capacious in terms of "production volume" and requiring fewer expenditures. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses do not receive even 1 kg of mixed feed for small hoglings from it. But there is a great need for it. The Oblast Grain Product Association does not plan this type of product for the enterprise. In brief, thus far all the links of the rayon agroindustrial complex had different aims in production activity.

No Responsibility at All...

We will make a slight digression. The statute on the rayon administration of agriculture states that the latter is responsible for the state and development of agricultural production, for the fulfillment of the plans and assignments for the sale of products to the state and for the strengthening of kolkhoz and sovkhos economy.

Now let us turn to today's reality. What can the rayon production administration do? What is within its powers? This is what the participants in the meeting said: The rayon agroindustrial complex has 46 enterprises and organizations, including 15 kolkhozes, 11 sovkhoses, 4 enterprises for the processing of agricultural products, agricultural equipment associations and associations for agrochemical services to agriculture and a number of other organizations.

In practice, at the rayon level there was no administrative body that united the efforts of all agricultural enterprises and of the organizations servicing them and directed their activity toward the growth of farm and livestock products.

In fact, kolkhozes and only three sovkhoses are directly subordinate to the production administration and the remaining eight are part of five different trusts and associations of oblast and republic levels.

Trusts present plans for state purchases of agricultural products to specialized sovkhoses and the city soviet of people's deputies approves them. The city executive committee has the last, decisive word in procurement planning. Trusts determine material and technical supply. Owing to this, frequently there is a lack of correspondence between production plans, which are elaborated on the basis of assignments for the sale of products to the state, and their provision with the necessary resources.

In practice, the following often happens. The procurement of some types of products is increased for the rayon, but on the sovkhoses of trusts capital investments are allocated to other sectors. How much effort must be exerted, economists complained, in order to curtail a plan on a rayon scale! One of the trusts reduces the production of some types of products on its farms, while, conversely, another increases it.

Sovkhoses receive tractors and combines according to the schedules of allocations of their trusts and agricultural machines and technical service equipment according to the schedules of allocations of the agricultural administration, the supply of spare parts, fuels and lubricants is under the authority of the Agricultural Equipment Association and the Association for Agrochemical Services to Agriculture handles the delivery of mineral fertilizers. Owing to such conditions, a difference in economic interests is observed at the interfaces of the links of the rayon agroindustrial complex.

That is why the speakers at the meeting paid special attention to problems of improvement in the mutual relations of the enterprises and organizations forming part of the agroindustrial complex. They shared their thoughts about how to interest all the partners of the agroindustrial complex in increasing the production and sale of agricultural products to the state and in better organizing their procurement and processing. For this purpose a proposal was made to more profoundly study the accumulated experience in sensible cooperation and to map out specific ways and means of eliminating the indicated shortcomings in the interaction of all the links of the agroindustrial complex.

In the opinion of the participants in the meeting, the creation of a rayon cost accounting agroindustrial association will contribute to the establishment of coordinated actions of kolkhozes, sovkhoses and the organizations and enterprises servicing them. The basic economic levers that the rayon agroindustrial association should utilize were also mentioned. They include the centralization of part of the capital investments of the enterprises and organizations of the rayon agroindustrial complex allocated for the construction of interfarm projects, equalization of the economic conditions of enterprises and organizations, introduction of a unified system of material incentives for final results, distribution of material and technical supply stock and others.

Production Growth Is the Main Goal

For the implementation of the overall program for the rayon's economic and social development and a more effective utilization of resources under the conditions of the agroindustrial association provision is made for the establishment of centralized funds for mutual assistance to the farms, enterprises and organizations forming part of the rayon agroindustrial association, for social measures and for material incentives.

In their speeches V. Kontsevoy, chief economist of the Dolginovo Sovkhoz, V. Tarasov, chairman of the Pravda Kolkhoz, and Ye. Ryazantseva, chief economist of the Lyuban' Sovkhoz, said that the new form of management of the rayon agroindustrial complex should contribute to production growth and to the delivery of products in the best form to consumers. At the same time, under the favorable conditions of the rayon agroindustrial association farms must also manifest maximum initiative in order to constantly improve labor organization, search for a more efficient utilization of land, equipment and all material resources and increase the production of farm and livestock products.

It was no accident that in the speeches of the participants in the meeting an important place was assigned to the advanced practical experience of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which should be widely introduced. For example, R. Dorskiy, chairman of the Rassvet Kolkhoz, shared the experience of the brigade contract. Mechanized brigades, as well as links, work according to this method of organization and stimulation of labor on the kolkhoz. Sown areas and the necessary equipment are assigned to them. The lump wage fund is calculated on the basis of the rates of payment for output, whose planned volume is determined according to the average data for the preceding 5 years.

At the same time, however, R. Dorskiy believes that it is important to first of all create conditions for material incentives and responsibility for the final results of a specific collective. Why should this be only a brigade or a link? During the period of the most stepped up field work it becomes necessary to concentrate equipment at such-an-such production section. So-called overall tractor detachments are established on some farms. They also conclude a contract agreement and work under the terms of the job-contract-plus-bonus wage system.

It was repeatedly stressed at the meeting that the entire work connected with an improvement in production organization and management should be subordinate to one goal: increase in production, economical utilization of material-technical and labor resources and successful fulfillment of the plan for 1982 and for the 5-year period as a whole.

The rayon's kolkhozes and sovkhozes noted the following in their obligations: To produce 540 quintals of milk and 125 quintals of meat per 100 hectares of agricultural land and to sell 46,000 tons of milk and 9,000 tons of meat to the state. The assignment of the first half-year for these products was overfulfilled. A total of 1,200 tons of milk and 120 tons of meat in excess of the plan were sold to the state.

The participants in the business meeting were unanimous in their opinion that the establishment of the rayon agroindustrial association would become one of the important conditions for the further strengthening of the economy of kolkhozes and sovkhoses and of all the enterprises and organizations of the rayon agroindustrial complex.

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